

THE
State of Innocence,
AND
Fall of MAN:
AN
OPERA.
Written in Heroick VERSE; and
Dedicated to Her Royal HIGHNESS
THE
DUTCHESS.

By Mr. JOHN DRYDEN.

*Utinam modo dicere possem
Carmina digna Deâ : Certe est Dea Carmine digna. Ovid. Metam.*

L O N D O N :

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DUTCHES.

By John D. D.

OLD MAN

T O

Her Royal Highness

T H E

DUTCHESS.

M A D A M,

AMBITION is so far from being a Vice in Poets, that 'tis almost impossible for them to succeed without it. Imagination must be rais'd by a desire of Fame, to a desire of Pleasing: And they whom in all Ages Poets have endeavour'd most to please, have been the Beautiful and the Great. Beauty is their Deity to which they sacrifice, and Greatness is their Guardian-Angel which protects them. Both these are so eminently joyn'd in the Person of Your Royal Highness, that it were not easie for any but a Poet, to determine which of them out-shines the other. But, I confess, Madam, I am already bayfs'd in my Choice: I can easily resign to others the Praise of Your Illustrious Family, and that Glory which you derive from a long continued Race of Princes, famous for their Actions both in Peace and War: I can give up to the Historians of Your Countrey, the Names of so many Generals and Heroes which croud their Annals; and to our own, the Hopes of those which You are to produce for the *British* Chronicle. I can yield, without envy, to the Nation of Poets, the Family of *Este*, to which *Ariosto* and *Tasso* have own'd their Patronage; and to which the World has ow'd their Poems. But I could not, without extream reluctance, resign the Theme of Your Beauty to another Hand. Give me leave, Madam, to acquaint the World that I am jealous of this Subject; and let it be no Dishonour to You, that after having rais'd the Admiration of Mankind, You have inspir'd one Man to give it voice. But with whatsoever Vanity this new Honour of being Your Poet has fill'd my Mind, I confess my self too weak for the Inspiration; the Priest was always unequal to the Oracle: The God within him was too mighty for his Breast. He labour'd with the Sacred Revelation, and there was more of the Mystery left behind, than Divinity it self could enable him to express.

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I can but discover a part of Your Excellencies to the World ; and that too according to the measure of my own Weakness. Like those who have survey'd the Moon by Glasses, I can only tell of a new and shining World above us, but not relate the Riches and Glories of the Place. 'Tis therefore that I have already wav'd the Subject of Your Greatness, to resign my self to the Contemplation of what is more peculiarly Yours. Greatness is indeed communicated to some few of both Sexes ; but Beauty is confin'd to a more narrow compass : 'Tis only in Your Sex ; 'tis not shar'd by many ; and its Supreme Perfection is in You alone. And here, Madam, I am proud that I cannot flatter. You have reconcil'd the differing Judgments of Mankind ; for all Men are equal in their Judgment of what is eminently best. The Prize of Beauty was disputed only till You were seen ; but now all Pretenders have withdrawn their Claims : There is no Competition but for the Second Place. Even the fairest of our Island (which is fam'd for Beauties) not daring to commit their Cause against You, to the Suffrage of those who most partially adore them. Fortune has, indeed, but render'd Justice to so much Excellence, in setting it so high to publick View ; or rather Providence has done Justice to it self, in placing the most perfect Workmanship of Heaven, where it may be admir'd by all Beholders. Had the Sun and Stars been seated lower, their Glory had not been communicated to all at once ; and the Creator had wanted so much of his Praise, as he had made Your Condition more obscure. But he has plac'd You so near a Crown, that you add a Lustre to it by Your Beauty. You are joyn'd to a Prince who only could deserve You ; whose Conduct, Courage, and Success in War, whose Fidelity to His Royal Brother, whose Love for His Countrey, whose Constancy to His Friends, whose Bounty to His Servants, whose Justice to Merit, whose Inviolable Truth, and whose Magnanimity in all his Actions, seem to have been rewarded by Heaven, by the Gift of You. You are never seen, but you are blest ; and I am sure You bless all those who see You. We think not the Day is long enough when we behold You : And You are so much the Business of our Souls, that while You are in sight, we can neither look nor think on any else. There are no Eyes for other Beauties : You only are present, and the rest of Your Sex are but the unregarded Parts that fill your Triumph. Our Sight is so intent on the Object of its Admiration, that our Tongues have not leisure even to praise You ; for Language seems too low a thing to express Your Excellence ; and our Souls are speaking so much within, that they despise all foreign Conversation. Every Man, even the dullest, is thinking more than the most Eloquent can teach him how to utter. 'Thus, Madam, in the midst of Crowds, You reign in Solitude ; and are ador'd with the deepest Veneration, that of Silence. 'Tis true, You are above all mortal Wishes ; no Man desires Impossibilities, because

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because they are beyond the reach of Nature! To hope to be a God, is Folly exalted into Madness; but by the Laws of our Creation, we are oblig'd to adore Him; and are permitted to love Him too, at humane distance. 'Tis the Nature of Perfection to be attractive; but the Excellency of the Object refines the Nature of the Love. It strikes an Impression of awful Reverence; 'tis indeed that Love which is more properly a Zeal than Passion: 'Tis the Rapture which Anchorites find in Prayer, when a Beam of the Divinity shines upon them; that which makes them despise all worldly Objects; and yet 'tis all but Contemplation. They are seldom visited from above; but a single Vision so transports them, that it makes up the Happiness of their Lives. Mortality cannot bear it often: It finds them in the eagerness and height of their Devotion; they are Speechless for the time that it continues, and prostrate and dead when it departs. The Ecstasie had needs be strong, which, without any end, but that of Admiration, has power enough to destroy all other Passions. You render Mankind insensible to other Beauties; and have destroy'd the Empire of Love, in a Court which was the seat of his Dominion. You have subverted (may I dare to accuse You of it) even our Fundamental Laws, and reign absolute over the Hearts of a stubborn and free-born People, tenacious almost to Madness of their Liberty. The brightest and most Victorious of our Ladies make daily Complaints of revolted Subjects; if they may be said to be revolted whose Servitude is not accepted; for Your Royal Highness is too great and too Just a Monarch, either to want or to receive the Homage of Rebellious Fugitives. Yet if some few among the Multitude continue steadfast to the first Pretensions, 'tis an Obedience so lukewarm and languishing, that it merits not the Name of Passion: Their Addresses are so faint, and their Vows so hollow to their Sovereigns, that they seem only to maintain their Faith out of a Sense of Honour: They are ashamed to desist, and yet grow careless to obtain: Like despairing Combatants they strive against You, as if they had beheld unveil'd the Magical Shield of your *Ariosto*, which dazzled the Beholders with too much Brightness; they can no longer hold up their Arms, they have read their Destiny in Your Eyes.

*Splende lo Scudo, a guisa di Piropo ;
E Luce altra non e tanto lucente :
Cader in terra a lo splendor fu d' vopo,
Con gli occhi abbacinati, e senza mente.*

And yet, Madam, if I could find in my self the Power to leave this Argument of your Incomparable Beauty, I might turn to one which would equally oppress me with its Greatness. For Your conjugal Virtues have deserv'd to be set as an Example to a less denegrate, less tainted Age. They approach so near to Singularity in ours, that

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that I can scarcely make a Panegyrick to Your Royal Highness, without a Satyr on many others: But Your Person is a Paradise, and Your Soul a Cherubin within to guard it. If the Excellency of the out-side invite the Beholders, the Majesty of Your Mind deters them from too bold Approaches, and turns their Admiration into Religion. Moral Perfections are rais'd higher by You in the Softer Sex; as if Men were of too coarse a Mould for Heaven to work on, and that the Image of Divinity could not be cast to likeness in so harsh a Metal. Your Person is so admirable, that it can scarce receive Addition when it shall be glorify'd; and your Soul, which shines through it, finds it of a Substance so near her own, that she will be pleas'd to pass an Age within it, and to be confin'd to such a Palace.

I know not how I am hurried back to my former Theme: I ought and purpos'd to have celebrated those Endowments and Qualities of Your Mind, which were sufficient, even without the Graces of the Person, to render You, as You are, the Ornament of the Court, and the Object of Wonder to three Kingdoms. But all my Praises are but as a Bull-rush cast upon a Stream; if they sink not, 'tis because they are born up by the strength of the Current, which supports their lightness; but they are carried round again, and return on the Eddy where they first began. I can proceed no farther than Your Beauty; and even on that too, I have said so little, considering the Greatness of the Subject, that, like him who would lodge a Bowl upon a Precipice, either my Praise falls back, by the Weakness of the Delivery, or stays not on the Top, but rolls over, and is lost on the other side. I intended this a Dedication; but how can I consider what belongs to my self, when I have been so long contemplating on You! Be pleas'd then, Madam, to receive this *P O E M*, without intituling so much Excellency as Yours, to the Faults and Imperfections of so mean a Writer; and instead of being favourable to the Piece, which merits nothing, forgive the Presumption of the Author; who is with all possible Veneration,

Your ROYAL HIGHNESS's

Most Obedient,

Most Humble,

Most devoted Servant,

John Dryden.

To Mr. DRYDEN, on his POEM of
P A R A D I S E.

FOrgive me, awful Poet, if a Muse,
Whom Artless Nature did for plainness chuse,
In loose Attire presents her humble Thought
Of this best *Poem*, that you ever wrought,
This fairest Labour of your teeming Brain,
I wou'd embrace, but not with Flatt'ry stain;
Something I wou'd to your vast Virtue raise,
But scorn to dawb it with a fulsome Praise;
That wou'd but blot the Work I wou'd commend,
And shew a Court-Admirer, not a Friend.
To the dead Bard your Fame a little owes,
For *Milton* did the wealthy Mine disclose,
And rudely cast what you could well dispose:
He roughly drew on an old-fashion'd Ground,
A Chaos; for no perfect World was found,
Till through the Heap your mighty Genius shin'd;
His was the Golden Ore, which you refin'd.
He first beheld the Beauteous rustick Maid,
And to a Place of Strength the Prize convey'd;
You took her thence, to Court this Virgin brought,
Drest her with Gems, new weav'd her hard-spun Thought,
And softest Language, sweetest Manners taught,
Till from a Comet she a Star did rise,
Not to affright, but please our wond'ring Eyes.
Betwixt ye both is fram'd a Nobler Piece,
Than e'er was drawn in *Italy* or *Greece*.
Thou from his Source of Thoughts ev'n Souls dost bring,
As smiling Gods from fullen *Saturn* spring.
When Night's dull Mask the Face of Heav'n does wear,
'Tis doubtful Light, but here and there a Star,

Which

Which serves the dreadful Shadows to display,
That vanish at the rising of the Day;
But then Bright Robes the Meadows all adorn,
And the World looks as it were newly born.
So when your Sense his Mystick Reason clear'd,
The Malancholly Scene all Gay appear'd;
New Light leapt up, and a new Glory smil'd,
And all throughout was mighty, all was mild.
Before this Palace which they Wit did build,
Which various Fancy did so gawdy gild,
And Judgment has with solid Riches fill'd,
My humbler Muse begs she may Centry stand,
Amongst the rest that guard this *Eden* Land.
But there's no need, for ev'n thy Foes conspire
Thy Praise; and hating thee, thy Work admire.
On then, O mighty't of th' inspired Men,
Monarch of Verse, new Themes employ thy Pen;
The Troubles of Majestick *CHARLES* set down,
Not *David* vanquish'd more to reach a Crown.
Praise Him, as *Cowley* did that *Hebrew* King,
Thy Theme's as great, do thou as greatly sing.
Then thou may'st boldly to his Favour rise,
Look down, and the base Serpent's Hiss despise:
From thund'ring Envy safe in Lawrel sit,
While clam'rous Criticks their Vile Heads submit,
Condemn'd for Treason at the Bar of Wit.

Nath. Lee.

The Author's Apology for Heroick Poetry, and Poetick License.

TO satisfy the Curiosity of those who will give themselves the trouble of reading the ensuing P O E M, I think my self obliged to render them a Reason, why I publish an OPERA which was never acted. In the first place, I shall not be ashamed to own, That my cheifest Motive, was the Ambition which I acknowledg'd in the Epistle. I was desirous to lay at the Feet of so Beautiful and Excellent a Princess, a Work, which, I confess, was unworthy Her; but which I hope She will have the Goodness to forgive. I was also induc'd to it in my own defence, many hundred Copies of it being dispers'd abroad, without my Knowledge or Consent; so that everyone gathering new Faults, it became at length a Libel against me; and I saw, with some disdain, more Nonsense than either I, or as bad a Poet could have cram'd into it, at a Month's warning; in which time, 'twas wholly written, and not since revis'd. After this, I cannot, without Injury to the deceas'd Author of Paradise Lost, but acknowledge that this P O E M has receiv'd its entire Foundation, part of the Design, and many of the Ornaments from him. What I have borrow'd, will be so easily discern'd from my mean Productions, that I shall not need to point the Reader to the Places: And, truly, I should be sorry, for my own sake, that any one should take the pains to compare them together, the Original being undoubtedly one of the greatest, most noble, and most sublime P O E M S, which either this Age or Nation has produc'd. And tho' I could not refuse the Partiality of my Friend, who is pleas'd to commend me in his Verses, I hope they will rather be esteem'd the effect of his Love to me, than of his deliberate and sober Judgment. His Genius is able to make beautiful what he pleases: Yet, as he has been too favourable to me, I doubt not but he will hear of his Kindness from many of our Contemporaries: For we are fallen into an Age of Illiterate, Censorious, and Detracting People; who thus qualify'd, set up for Criticks.

In the first place, I must take leave to tell them, that they wholly mistake the nature of Criticism, who think its Business is principally to find fault. Criticism, as 'twas first instituted by Aristotle, was meant a Standard of judging well. The cheifest parts of which, is to observe those Excellencies which should delight a reasonable Reader. If the Design, the Conduct, the Thoughts, and the Expressions of a Poem, be generally such as proceed from a true Genius of Poetry. The Critick ought to pass his Judgment in favour of the Author. 'Tis malicious and unmanly to snarle

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at the little lapses of a Pen, from which Virgil himself stands not exempted. Horace acknowledges that honest Homer nods sometimes: He is not equally awake in every Line: But he leaves it also as a standing Measure for our Judgments.

—Non, Ubi plura nitent in Carmine, paucis
Offendi maculis, quas aut incuria fudit
Aut humana parum cavit Natura.—

And Longinus, who was undoubtedly, after Aristotle, the greatest Critick among the Greeks, in his twenty seventh Chapter ~~de uis~~, has judiciously preferr'd the sublime Genius that sometimes errs, to the midling or indifferent one which makes few Faults, but seldom or never rises to any Excellence. He compares the first to a Man of large Possessions, who has not leisure to consider of every slight Expence, will not debase himself to the management of every Trifle: Particular Sums are not laid out or spar'd to the greatest Advantage in his Oeconomy: but are sometimes suffer'd to run to waste, while he is only careful of the Main. On the other side, he likens the Mediocrity of Wit, to one of a mean Fortune, who manages his Store with extream frugality, or rather parsimony; but who with fear of running into profuseness, never arrives to the magnificence of living. This kind of Genius writes, indeed, correctly: A wary man he is in Grammar; very nice as to Solæcism or Barbarism, judges to a hair of little Decencies, knows better than any man what is not to be written, and never hazards himself so far as to fall; but plods on deliberately, and, as a grave Man ought, is sure to put his Staff before him: In short, he sets his Heart upon it, and with wonderful care makes his Business sure, that is, in plain English, neither to be blam'd, nor prais'd——I could, saith my Author, find out some Blemishes in Homer; and am, perhaps, as naturally inclin'd to be disgusted at a Fault as another Man. But after all, to speak impartially, his Failings are such, as are only Marks of humane Frailty; they are little Mistakes, or rather Negligences, which have escap'd his Pen in the fervour of his writing; the sublimity of his Spirit carries it with me, against his carelessness: And though Appollonius his Argonautes, and Theocritus his Eidullia, are more free from Errors, there is not any Man of so false a Judgment, who would chuse rather to have been Apollonius or Theocritus, than Homer.

'Tis worth our consideration, a little to examine how much these Hypercriticks of English Poetry, differ from the Opinion of the Greek and Latin Judges of Antiquity, from the Italians and French who have succeeded them; and indeed, from the general Taste and Approbation of all Ages. Heroick Poetry, which they contemn, has ever been esteem'd, and ever will be, the greatest Work of Humane Nature; in that rank has Aristotle plac'd it, and Longinus is so full of the like Expressions, that he abundantly confirms the others Testimony. Horace as plainly delivers his Opinion, and particularly praises Homer in these Verses:

Trojani

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Trojani Belli Scriptorem, maxime Lolli,
Dum tu declamas Romæ, Præneste relegi;
Qui quid sit pulchrum, quid turpe, quid utile, quid non,
Plenius ac melius Chrysippo & Crantore dicit.

And in another place, modestly excluding himself from the number of Poets, because he only writ Odes and Satyrs, he tells you a Poet is such an one,
———Cui mens Divinor atque os,
magna fonituum.

Quotations are superfluous in an establish'd Truth, otherwise I cou'd reckon up amongst the Moderns, all the Italian Commentators on Aristotle's Book of Poetry; amongst the French, the greatest in this Age, Boileau and Rapin; the latter of which is alone sufficient, were all other Criticks lost, to teach anew the Rules of Writing. Any Man who will seriously consider the Nature of an Epick Poem, how it agrees with that of Poetry in general, which is to instruct and to delight; what Actions it describes, and what Persons they are chiefly whom it informs, will find it a Work which indeed is full difficulty in the attempt, but admirable when 'tis well perform'd. I write not this with the least intention to undervalue the other parts of Poetry; for Comedy is both excellently instructive, and extreamly pleasant: Satyr lashes Vice into Reformation, and Humour represents Folly so as to render it ridiculous. Many of our present Writers are eminent in both these kinds; and particularly the Author of the Plain-Dealer, whom I am proud to call my Friend, has oblig'd all honest and virtuous Men, by one of the most bold, most general, and most useful Satyrs which has ever been presented on the English Theatre. I do not dispute the preference of Tragedy; let every Man enjoy his taste; but 'tis unjust that they who have not the least notion of Heroick writing, should therefore condemn the pleasure which others receive from it, because they cannot comprehend it. Let them please their Appetites in eating what they like, but let them not force their Dish on all the Table. They who would combat generl Authority with particular Opinion, must first establish themselves a Reputation of understanding better than other Men. Are all the Flights of Heroick Poetry to be concluded bombast, unnatural, and meer madness, because they are not affected with their Excellencies; 'Tis just as reasonable as to conclude there is no Day, because a blind Man cannot distinguish of Light and Colours; ought they not rather in modesty, to doubt of their own Judgments, when they think this or that Expression in Homer, Virgil, Tasso, or Milton's Paradise, to be too far strain'd, than positively to conclude, that 'tis all Eustian and meer Nonsense? 'Tis true, there are limits to be set betwixt the boldness and rashness of a Poet; but he must understand those limits who pretends to judge, as well as he who undertakes to write; and he who has no liking to the whole, ought in reason to be excluded from censuring of the Parts.

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He must be a Lawyer before he mounts the Tribunal; and the Judicature of one Court too, does not qualifie a Man to preside in another. He may be an excellent Pleader in the Chancery, who is not fit to rule the Common Pleas. But I will presume for once to tell them, that the boldest strokes of Poetry, when they are managed Artfully, are those which most delight the Reader.

Virgil and Horace, the severest Writers of the severest Age, have made frequent use of the hardest Metaphors, and of the strongest Hyperboles: And in this case the best Authority is the best Argument. For generally to have pleas'd, through all Ages, must bear the force of Universal Tradition. And if you would appeal from thence to Right Reason, you will gain no more by it in effect, than first, to set up your Reason against those Authors; and secondly, against all those who have admir'd them. You must prove why that ought not to have pleas'd, which has pleas'd the most Learned, and the most Judicious: And to be thought knowing, you must first put the Fool upon all Mankind. If you can enter more deeply than they have done, into the Causes and Resorts of that which moves Pleasure in a Reader, the Field is open, you may be heard: But those Springs of Humane Nature are not so easily discovered by every superficial Judge: It requires Philosophy as well as Poetry, to sound the depth of all the Passions; what they are in themselves, and how they are to be provok'd; and in this Science the best Poets have excell'd. Aristotle rais'd the Fabrick of his Poetry, from observations of those things, in which Euripides, Sophocles, and Æschylus pleas'd: He consider'd how they rais'd the Passions, and thence has deriv'd the Rules for our Imitation. From hence have sprung the Tropes and Figures, for which they wanted a Name, who first practis'd them, and succeeded in them: Thus I grant you, that the knowledge of Nature was the Original Rule, and that all Poets ought to study her, as well as Aristotle and Horace her Interpreters. But then this also undeniably follows, That those things which delight all Ages, must have been an Imitation of Nature; which is all I contend. Therefore is Rhetorick made an Art; therefore the Names of so many Tropes and Figures were invented; because it was observ'd they had such and such an effect upon the Audience. Therefore Catachreses and Hyperboles have found their place amongst them; not that they are to be avoided, but to be us'd judiciously, and plac'd in Poetry, as heightnings and shadows are in Painting, to make the Figure bolder, and cause it to stand off to sight.

—Nec retia Cervis

Ulla, dolum meditantur, says Virgil in his Eclogues. And speaking of Leander in his Georgicks,

Cæca nocte natat ferus freta, quem super, ingens

Porta tonat Cœli; & scopulis illisa reclamant

Æquora: —

In both of these you see he fears not to give Voice and Thought to things inanimate.

Will

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Will you arraign your Master Horace, for his hardness of Expression, when he describes the Death of Cleopatra? and says she did Asperos tractare serpentes, ut atrum corpore combiberet venenum? because the Body in that Action performs what is proper to the Mouth.

As for Hyperboles, I will neither quote Lucan, nor Statius, Men of an unbounded Imagination, but who often wanted the Poize of Judgement. The Divine Virgil was not liable to that exception; and yet he describes Polyphemus thus:

——— Graditurque per æquor

Jam medium; nec dum fluctus latera ardua tingit.

In Imitation of this place, our admirable Cowley thus paints Goliath.

The Valley, now, this Monster seem'd to fill;

And we, methought, look'd up to him from our Hill.

Where the the two Words Seem'd and Methought, have mollified the Figure; and yet if they had not been there, the fright of the Israelites might have excus'd their belief of the Giants Stature.

In the eight of the Æneids, Virgil paints the Swiftneſs of Camilla thus:

Illa vel intacta ſcgetis per ſumma volaret

Gramina, nec teneras curſu læſiſſet aristas;

Vel mare per medium, fluctu ſuſpenſa tument,

Ferret iter, celeres nec tingeret æquore plantas.

You are not oblig'd, as in History, to a literal Belief of what the Poet ſays: but you are pleas'd with the Image, without being couzen'd by the Fiction.

Yet even in History, Longinus quotes Herodotus on this occaſion of Hyperboles. The Lacedemonians, ſays he, at the Straits of Thermopyla, defended themſelves to the laſt Extremity; and when their Arms ail'd them, fought it out with their Nails and Teeth; till at length (the Perſians ſhooting continually upon them) they lay buried under the Arrows of their Enemies. It is not reaſonable (continues the Critick) to believe that Men could defend themſelves with their Nails and Teeth from an armed multitude; nor that they lay buried under a Pile of Darts and Arrows: and yet there wants not probability for the Figure; becauſe the Hyperbole ſeems not to have been made for the ſake of the Deſcription, but rather to have been produc'd from the occaſion.

Tis true, the boldneſs of the Figures are to be hidden ſometimes by the addreſs of the Poet, that they may work their Effect upon the Mind, without diſcovering the Art which cauſ'd it. And therefore they are principally to be us'd in Paſſion; when we ſpeak more warmly, and with more precipitation than at other times: For then, Si vis me flere, dolendum eſt primum ipſi tibi; the Poet muſt put on the Paſſion he endeavours to repreſent. A Man in ſuch an occaſion is not cool enough, either to reaſon rightly, or to talk calmly. Aggravations are then in their proper Places; Interrogations, Exclamations, Hyperbata, or a diſorder'd connexion of Diſcourſe, are graceful there, becauſe they are Natural. The ſum of all depends

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depends on what before I hinted, that this boldness of Expression is not to be blam'd; if it be manag'd by the Coolness and Discretion which is necessary to a Poet.

Yet before I leave this Subject, I cannot but take notice how desingenuous our Adversaries appear: All that is dull, insipid, languishing, and without Sinews in a Poem, they call an Imitation of Nature: They only offend our most equitable Judges, who think beyond them; and lively Images and Elocution are never to be forgiven.

What Eustian, as they call it, have I heard these Gentlemen find out in Mr. Cowley's Odes; I acknowledge myself unworthy to defend so excellent an Author: Neither have I room to do it here; only in general I will say, That nothing can appear more beautiful to me, than the Strength of those Images which they condemn.

Imaging is, in it self, the very height and life of Poetry. 'Tis, as Longinus describes it, a Discourse, which by a kind of Enthusiasm, or extraordinary emotion of the Soul, makes it seem to us that we behold those things which the Poet paints, so as to be pleas'd with them, and to admire 'em.

If Poetry be Imitation, that part of it must needs be best, which describes most lively our Actions and Passions, our Virtues and our Vices, our Follies and our Humours; for neither is Comedy without its part of Imaging; and they who do it best, are certainly the most excellent in their kind. This is too plainly prov'd to be denied. But how are Poetical Fictions, how are Hippocentaurs and Chimæra's, or how are Angels and Immaterial Substances to be imagied; which, some of them, are things quite out of Nature; others, such whereof we can have no notion? This is the last refuge of our Adversaries, and more than any of them have yet had the wit to object against us. The Answer is easie to the first part of it. The Fiction of some beings which are not in Nature, (second Notions as the Logicians call them) has been founded on the conjunction of two Natures, which have a real separate Being. So Hippocentaurs were imag'd by joyning the Natures of a Man and Horse together; as Lucretius tells us, who has used this word of Image oftner than any of the Poets.

Nam certe ex vivo, Centauri non fit Imago,
Nulla fuit quoniam talis natura animal:
Verum ubi equi atque hominis, causa convenit Imago,
Hærescit facile extemplo, &c.

The same reason may also be alledged for Chimæra's and the rest. And Poets may be allow'd the like Liberty, for describing things which really exist not, if they are founded on popular Belief; Of this Nature are Faïres, Pigmies, and the extraordinary Effects of Magick: For 'tis still an Imitation, tho' of other Mens Fancies; and thus are Shakespear's Tempest, his Midsummer Nights Dream, and Ben. Johnson's Mask
of

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of Witches, to be defended. For Immaterial Substances we are authoris'd by Scripture in their description; and herein the Text accommodates it self to vulgar Apprehension, in giving Angels the likeness of beautiful young Men. Thus, after the Pagan Divinity has Homer drawn his Gods, with humane Faces: And thus we have Notions of things above us, by describing them like other Beings more within our Knowledge.

I wish I could produce any one Example of excellent Imaging in all this Poem: Perhaps I cannot; but that which comes nearest it, is in these four Lines, which have been sufficiently canvas'd by my well-natur'd Censors.

Seraph and Cherub, careless of their Charge,
And wanton, in full ease now live at large.
Unguarded leave the Passes of the Sky;
And all dissolv'd in Hallelujah's lie.

I have heard (says one of them) of Anchovies dissolv'd in Sauce, but never of an Angel in Hallelujah's. A mighty Witticism! (if you will pardon a new Word) but there is some difference between a Laughter and a Critick. He might have burlesqu'd Virgil too, from whom I took the Image; *Invadunt Urbem, fomno vinoq; sepultam.* A City's being buried, is just as proper on occasion, as an Angel's being dissolv'd in Ease, and Songs of Triumph. Mr. Cowley lies as open too in many places:

Where their vast Courts the Mother Waters keep, &c. For if the Masses of Waters be the Mothers, then their Daughters the little Streams, are bound in all good manners, to make Cur'sie to them, and ask them Blessing. How easie 'tis to turn into ridicule the best Descriptions, when once a Man is in the humour of laughing, till he wheezes at his own dull Jest! But an Image which is strongly and beautifully set before the Eyes of the Reader, will still be Poetry when the merry Kit is over; and last when the other is forgotten.

I promis'd to say somewhat of Poetick Licence, but have in part anticipated my Discourse already. Poetick Licence, I take to be the Liberty which Poets have assum'd to themselves in all Ages, of speaking things in Verse, which are beyond the severity of Prose. 'Tis that particular character, which distinguishes and sets the bounds betwixt Oratio soluta and Poetry. This, as to what regards the Thought, or Imagination of a Poet, consists in Fiction; but then those Thoughts must be express'd; and here arise two other branches of it: For if this Licence be included in a single word, it admits of Tropes; if in a Sentence or Proposition, of Figures: Both which are of a much larger extent, and more forcibly to be us'd in Verse than Prose. This is that Birth-right which is deriv'd to us from our great Fore-fathers, even from Homer down to Ben. And they who would deny it to us, have, in plain terms, the Foxes Quarrel to the Grapes, they cannot reach it.

The PREFACE.

How for these Liberties are to be extended, I will not presume to determine here, since Horace does not. But it is certain, that they are to be varied according to the Language and Age in which an Author writes. That which would be allow'd to a Grecian Poet, Martial tells you, would not be suffer'd in a Roman. And 'tis evident, that the English does more nearly follow the strictness of the latter, than the freedoms of the former. Connexion of Epithets, or the conjunction of two Words in one, are frequent and elegant in the Greek, which yet Sir Philip Sydney, and the Translator of Du Bartas, have unluckily attempted in the English; tho' this, I confess, is not so proper an Instance of Poetick Licence, as it is of variety of Idiom in Languages.

Horace a little explains himself on this Subject of *Licentia Poetica*, in Verses :

Pictoribus atque Poetis

Quidlibet audendi semper fuit æqua potestas :

Sed non, ut placidis coeant immitia, non ut

Serpentes Avibus gementur, Tygribus Hædi.

He would have a Poem of a Piece ; not to begin one thing, and end with another : He restrains it so far, that thoughts of an unlike Nature, ought not to be joyn'd together. That were indeed to make a Chaos. He tax'd not Homer, nor the Divine Virgil, for interressing their Gods in the Wars of Troy and Italy : Neither, had he now liv'd, would he have tax'd Milton, as our false Criticks have presum'd to do, for his Choice of a supernatural Argument ; but he would have blam'd my Author, who was a Christian, had he introduc'd into his Poems Heathen Deities, as Tasso is condemn'd by Rapin on the like occasion : And as Camoëns, the Author of the *Lusiads*, ought to be censur'd by all his Readers, when he brings in Bacchus and Christ into the same Adventure of his Fable. From that which has been said, it may be collect'd, that the Definition of Wit (which has been so often attempted, and ever unsuccessfully, by many Poets) is only this, That it is a Propriety of Thoughts and Words ; or in other Terms, Thoughts and Words elegantly adapted to the Subject. If our Criticks will joyn issue on this Definition, that we may convenire in aliquo tertio ; if they will take it as a granted Principle, 'twill be easie to put an end to the Dispute. No Man will disagree from another's Judgment, concerning this Dignity of Style, in Heroick Poetry ; but all reasonable Men will conclude it necessary, that sublimest Subjects ought to be adorn'd with the sublimest, and (consequently often) with the most figurative Expressions. In the mean time, I will not run into their fault of imposing my Opinions on other Men, any more than I would my Writings on their Taste : I have only laid down, and that superficially enough, my present Thoughts ; and shall be glad to be taught better, by those who pretend to reform our Poetry.

THE
State of INNOCENCE:
AND
FALL of MAN.
AN
OPERA.

The first Scene represents a Chaos, or a confus'd Mass of Matter; the Stage is almost wholly dark. A Symphony of Warlike musick is heard for some time; then from the Heav'ns (which are open'd) fall the rebellious Angels, wheeling in the Air, and seeming transfix'd with Thunderbolts. The bottom of the Stairs being open'd, receives the Angels, who fall out of sight. Tunes of Victory are plaid, and an Hymn sung, Angels discovered above brandishing their Swords: The Musick ceasing, and the Heavens being closed, the Scene shifts, and on a sudden represents Hell. Part of the Scene is a Lake of Brimstone, or rowling Fire; the Earth of a burnt Colour. The fallen Angels appear on the Lake, lying prostrate; a Tune of Horrour and Lamentation is heard.

ACT I. SCENE I.

Lucifer raising himself on the Lake.

Lucifer. **I**S this the Seat our Conquerour has given?
And this the Climate we must change for Heaven?
These Regions and these Realms my Wars have got:
This mournful Empire is the loser's Lot:
In liquid Burnings, or on dry to dwell,
Is all the sad variety of Hell.

C

But

But see the Victor has recall'd from far,
 Th' Avenging storms, his Ministers of War;
 His shafts are spent, and his tir'd Thunders sleep,
 Nor longer bellow through the boundless deep.
 Best take th' occasion, and these Waves forsake,
 While time is given. Ho, *Asmoday*, awake,
 If thou art he: But, ah! how chang'd from him,
 Companion of thy Arms! how wan! how dim!
 How faded all thy Glories are! I see
 My self too well, and mine own Change in thee.

Asmoday. Prince of the Thrones, who in the fields of Light,
 Led'st forth the imbattel'd Seraphims to fight,
 Who shook th' Power of Heav'n's eternal State,
 Had broke it too, if not upheld by Fate;
 But now those hopes are fled: Thus low we lie,
 Shut from this day, and that contented Skie;
 And lost, as far as heav'nly Forms can die;
 Yet not all perish'd, we defie him still,
 And yet wage War with our unconquer'd Will.

Lucif. Strength may return.

Asm. Already of thy Virtue I partake,
 Erected by thy voice.

Lucif. ————— See on the Lake
 Our Troops, like scatter'd leaves in Autumn, lie;
 First let us raise our selves, and seek the dry,
 Perhaps more easie dwelling.

Asm. ————— From the Beach,
 Thy well-known voice, the sleeping Gods we'll reach.
 And wake th' immortal Sense, which Thunder's Noise
 Had quell'd, and lightning deep, had driven within 'em.

Lucif. With Wings expanded wide, our selves will rear,
 And fly incumbent on the dusky Air:
 Hell, thy new Lord receive,
 Heav'n cannot envy me an Empire here.

[*Both fly to dry Land.*]

Asm. Thus far we have prevail'd; if that be gain
 Which is but change of place not change of pain.
 Now summon we the rest.

Lucif. Dominions, Pow'rs, ye Chiefs of Heav'n's bright Host,
 (O Heaven's, once yours; but now, in battle lost)
 Wake from your slumbers: Are your Beds of downe;
 Sleep you so easie there? or fear the frown
 Of him who threw you thence, and joys to see
 Your abject State confess his Victory?
 Rise, rise, e'er from his battlements he view
 Your prostrate postures, and his bolts renew,

To

FALL of MAN.

3

To strike you deeper down.

Asm. ————— They wake, they hear,
Shake of their slumber first, and next their fear;
And only for th' appointed Signal stay.

Lucif. Rise from the Flood, and higher wing our way.

Mol. From the Lake. Thine to Command, our part 'tis to obey.

[The rest of the Devils rise
up, and fly to the Land.]

Lucif. So now we are our selves again, an Host
Fit to tempt Fate, once more, for what we lost.
To'erleap the Etherial Fence; or if so high
We cannot climb, to undermine his Skie,
And blow him up, who justly rules us now,
Because more strong: Should he be forc'd to bow,
The Right were ours again: 'Tis just to win
The highest place; t' attempt and fail, is sin.

Mol. Chang'd as we are, we'er yet from Homage free;
We have, by Hell, at least gain'd Liberty:
That's worth our fall; thus low tho' we are driven,
Better to rule in Hell, than serve in Heaven.

Lucif. There spoke the better half of *Lucifer*!

Asm. 'Tis fit in frequent senate we conferr,
And then determine how to Steer our course;
To wage new War by Fraud, or open Force.
The Doom's now past; Submission were in vain.

Mol. And, were it not, such baseness I disdain.
I would not stoop to purchase all above;
And should condemn a pow'r whom Pray'r could move,
As one unworthy to have conquer'd me.

Beelzebub. *Moloch*, in that, all are resolv'd like thee,
The means are unpropos'd; but 'tis not fit
Our dark *Divan* in publick view should sit,
Or what we plot against the Thunderer,
Th' ignoble Crowd of Vulgar Devils hear.

Lucif. A golden Palace let be rais'd on high;
To imitate? No, to out shine the Sky!
All Mines are ours, and Gold above the rest;
Let this be done, and quick as 'twas express.

[A Palace rises, where sit, as in Coun-
cil, Lucifer, Asmoday, Moloch, Be-
lial, Beelzebub, and Sathan.]

Most high and mighty Lords, who better fell
From Heav'n to rise States-General of Hell;
Nor yet repent tho' ruin'd and undone,
Our upper Provinces already won,
Such pride there is in Souls created free,
Such hate of Universal Monarchy;

C 2

Speak

Speak, (for we therefore meet)———

If peace you chuse, your Suffrages declare ;
Or means propound, to carry on the War.

Mol. My sentence is for War ; that open too :
Unskill'd in Stratagems, plain force I know :
Treaties are vain to Losers : Nor would we,
Should Heav'n grant peace submit to Sov'raignty.
We can no caution give, we will adore ;
And he above is warn'd to trust no more.
What then remains but battle?

Sathan. I agree,
With this brave Vote ; and if in Hell there be
Ten more such Spirits, Heav'n's our own again :
We venture nothing, and may all obtain.
Yet who can hope but well, since e'en Success
Makes Foes secure, and makes our danger less.
Seraph and *Cherub* careless of their Charge,
And wanton in full ease, now live at large,
Ungarded leave the Passes of the Sky,
And all dissolv'd in *Hallelujahs* lie.

Mol. Grant that our hazardous Attempt prov'd vain ;
We feel the worst, secur'd from greater pain :
Perhaps we may provoke the conqu'ring Foe
To make us nothing ; yet ev'n then we know
That not to be, is not to be in woe.

Belial. That knowledge which as Spirits we obtain,
Is to be valu'd in the mid'st of Pain :
Annihilation were to lose Heav'n more :
We are not quite exil'd, where Thought can soar.
Then cease from Arms ;
Tempt him not farther to pursue his blow ;
And be content to bear those Pains we know.
If what we had we could not keep, much less
Can we regain what those above possess.

Beelzeb. Heav'n sleeps not ; from one wink a Breach would be
In the full Circle of Eternity.
Long Pains, with use of bearing are half eas'd ;
Heav'n unprovok'd, at length may be appeas'd.
By War we can't escape our wretched Lot ;
And may, Perhaps, not warring be forgot.

Asm. Could we repent, or did not Heav'n well know
Rebellion once forgiv'n, would greater grow.
I should, with *Belial*, chuse ignoble ease,
But neither would the Conquerour give Peace,
Nor yet so lost in this low State we are,
As to despair of a well manag'd War.

Nor need we tempt those heights which Angels keep,
Who fear no force, or ambush from the deep.

What if we find some easier enterprize?

There is a Place, if ancient Prophecies
And Fame of Heav'n not err, the blest abode
Of some new Race, call'd Man, a Demi-God,
Whom, near this time, th' Almighty must create;
He swore it, shook the Heav'ns, and made it Fate.

Lucif. I heard it; through all Heav'n the rumour ran,
And much they talk of this intended *Man*:
Of Form Divine; but less in Excellence
Than we, endu'd with Reason lodg'd in Sense:
The Soul pure Fire, like ours of equal force;
But, pent in Flesh, must issue by Discourse.
We see what is; to Man truth must be brought
By sense, and drawn by a long Chain of Thought:
By that faint Light to will and understand;
For made less knowing, he's at more command.

Asm. Tho Heav'n be shut, that World if it be made,
As nearest Heav'n, lies open to invade:
Man therefore must be known, his Strength his State,
And by what Tenure he holds all of Fate.
Him let us then seduce, or overthrow:
The first is easiest; and makes Heav'n his Foe.
Advise, if this attempt be worth our care.

Belial. Great is th' Advantage, great the hazards are.
Some one (but who that task dares undertake?)
Of this new Creature must discov'ry make.
Hell's Brazen Gates he first must break, then far
Must wander through old night, and through the War
Of antique Chaos; and when these are past,
Meet Heav'n's out-guards, who scout upon the waft:
At every Station must be bid to stand,
And forc'd to answer every strict demand.

Mol. This glorious Enterprize——

[*Rising up*

Lucif. —— Rash Angel, stay;

[*Rising and laying his Sceptre on Moloch's head.*

That Palm is mine, which none shall take away.
Hot Braves like thee, may fight; but know not well
To manage this, the last great Stake of Hell.
Why am I rank'd in State above the rest,
If, while I stand of Sovereign Power possess,
Another dares in danger farther go?
Kings are not made for ease, and Pageant show.
Who would be Conquerour must venture all:
He merits not to rise who dares not fall.

Asm.

*The State of Innocence, and,**Asm.* The praise and danger then be all your own.*Lucif.* On this Foundation I erect my Throne :
Through Brazen Gates, vast Chaos, and old Night,
I'll force my way ; and upwards steer my flight :
Discover this new World, and newer Man ;
Make him my Foot-step to mount Heav'n again :
Then, in the Clemency of upward Air,We'll scour our spots, and the dire Thunders scar,
With all the Remnants of th' unlucky War,
And once again grow bright, and once again grow fair.*Asm.* Mean time the Youth of Hell strict guard may keep,
And set their Centries to the utmost deep.That no Etherial Parasite may come
To spie our Ills, and tell glad Tales at home.*Lucif.* Before yon' Brimstone-Lake thrice ebb and flow,
(Alas that we must measure time by Woe !)I shall return ; (my mind presages well)
And outward lead the Colonies of Hell.Your care I much approve ; what time remains,
With sports and Musick, in the Vales and Fields,
And whate'er Joy so sad a Climate yields,
Seek to forget at least divert your pains.

Betwixt the first Act, and the second, while the Chiefs sit in the Palace, may be expressed the Sports of the Devils ; as Flights and Dancing in Crotisque Figures ; and a Song expressing the Change of their Condition ; what they enjoy'd before ; and how they fell bravely in Battle, having deserved Victory by their valour ; and what they would have done, if they had conquer'd.

ACT II. SCENE I.

*A Champain Countrey.**Adam, as newly created, laid on a Bed of Moss and Flowers,
by a Rock**[Rising.]**Adam* **W**Hat am I ? Or from whence ? for that I am,
I know, because I think ; but whence I came,
Or how this frame of mine began to be,
What other being can disclose to me ?

FALL of MAN.

I move, I see, I speak, discourse and know ;
Tho' now I am, I was not always so.
Then that from which I was must be before,
Whom as my Spring of being I adore.
How full of Ornament is all I view,
In all its Parts ! and seems as beautiful as new :
O goodly order'd Work ! O Pow'r Divine,
Of thee I am ; and what I am is thine !

[Raphael descends to Adam in a Cloud.]

Raphael. First of Mankind, made o're the World to reign,
Whose fruitful Loins an unborn kind contain,
Well hast thou reason'd ; of himself is none
But that Eternal Infinite, and One,
Who never did begin, who ne'er can end ;
On him all beings, as their source, depend.
We first, who of his Image most partake,
Whom he all Spirits Immortal pure did make.
Man next ; whose Race exalted, must supply
The Place of those, who, falling, lost the Sky.

Adam. Bright Minister of Heav'n, sent here below
To me, who but begin to think and know ;
If such could fall from bliss, who knew and saw,
By near Admission, their Creator's Law ;
What hopes have I, from Heav'n remote so far,
To keep those Laws unknowing when I err.

Raphael. Right Reason's Laws to every humane heart
Th' Eternal as his Image, will impart :
This teaches to adore Heav'n's Majesty :
In Pray'r and Praise do all Devotion lie :
So doing, thou and all thy Race are blest.

Adam. Of every creeping thing, of Bird and Beast,
I see the Kinds ; in Pairs distinct they go :
The Males their Loves, their Lovers Females know.
Thou nam'dst a Race which must proceed from me,
Yet my whole species in my self I see :
A barren Sex, and single, of no use ;
But full of Forms, which I can ne'er produce.

Raphael. Think not the Pow'r who made thee thus can find
No way like their's to propagate thy Kind.
Mean time, live happy in thy self alone ;
Like him, who, single, fills th' Etherial Throne.
To study Nature will thy time employ :
Knowledge and Innocence are perfect joy.

Adam. If Solitude are best, th' All-wise above
Had made no Creature for himself to love.
I add not to the Pow'r he had before ;
Yet to make me, extends his Goodness more.

He

He would not be alone who all things can ;
But peopled Heav'n with Angles, Earth with Man.

Raphael. As Man and Angels to the Deity,
So all Inferiour Creatures are to thee.

Heav'n's greatness no Society can bear ;
Servants he made, and those thou want'st not here.

Adam. Why did he Reason in my Soul implant,
And Speech th' effect of Reason ? To the Mute
My Speech is lost ? my Reason to the brute.

Love and Society more Blessing's bring
To them, the Slaves, than Power to me their King.

Raphael. Thus far to try thee ; but, to Heaven, 'twas known,
It was not best for Man to be alone ;

An equal, yet thy Subject, is design'd
For thy soft Hours, and to unbend thy Mind.

Thy stronger Soul shall her weak Reason sway ;
And thou, through Love, her beauty shalt obey :
Thou shalt secure her helpless Sex from harms ;
And she thy Cares shall sweeten with her Charms.

Adam. What more can Heav'n bestow, or Man require ?

Raphael. Yes ; he can give beyond thy own desire.

A mansion is provided thee more fair
Than this and worthy Heavens peculiar Care :
Not fram'd of common Earth, nor Fruits, nor Flowers
Of Vulgar Growth ; but like Celestial Bowers :
The Soil luxuriant, and the Fruit Divine.

Where golden Apples on green Branches shine,
And Purple Grapes dissolve into immortal Wine.
For Noon-days heat are closer Arbours made ;
And for fresh Ev'ning Air, the op'ner glade.

Ascend : and, as we go,
More wonders thou shalt know.

Adam. And, as we go, let Earth and Heav'n above
Sound our great Maker's Pow'r, and greater Love.

[They ascend to soft Musick, and a song is sung.]

The Scene changes ; and represents above, a Sun Gloriously rising, and moving orbicularly : At a distance, below, is the Moon ; the part next the Sun enlightned, the other dark. A black Cloud comes whirling from the adverse part of the Heavens, bearing Lucifer in it ; at his nearer approach, the Body of the Sun is dark'ned.

Lucifer. Am I become so monstrous ? So disfigur'd,
That Nature cannot suffer my Approach,
Or look me in the Face ? But stands agast ;
And that fair Light which glides this new-made Orb,

Shorn of his Beams, shrinks in, accurst Ambition !
 And thou, black Empire of the nether World,
 How dearly have I bought you ! but 'tis past :
 I have already gone too far to stop,
 And must push on my dire revenge, in ruine
 Of this gay Frame, and Man my up-start Rival ;
 In scorn of me created. Down my Pride,
 And all my swelling thoughts ; I must forget,
 A while, I am a Devil, and put on
 A smooth, submissive Face ; else I, in vain
 Have past through Nigh and Chaos, to discover
 Those envy'd Skies again, which I have lost.
 But stay ; far off, I see a Chariot driv'n,
 Flaming with Beams, and in it Uriel,
 One of the Seven ; (I know his hated Face)
 Who stands in presence of th' Eternal Throne,
 And seems the Regent of that glorious Light.

From that part of the Heavens, where the Sun appears, a Chariot is discovered, drawn with White Horses, and in it Uriel, the Regent of the Sun. The Chariot moves swiftly towards Lucifer ; and at Uriel's approach, the Sun recovers his Light.

Uriel. Spirit, who art thou ? and from whence arriv'd ?
 (For I remember not thy Face in Heav'n)
 Or by Command, or hither led by Choice ;
 Or wander'st thou within this lucid Orb,
 And stray'd from those fair Fields of Light above,
 Amidst this new Creation want'st a Guide,
 To reconduct thy Steps ?

Lucif. ————— Bright Uriel,
 Chief of the Seven, thou flaming Minister,
 Who guard'st this new-created Orb of Light,
 (The World's Eye that, and thou the Eye of it)
 Thy Favour, and high Office, make thee known :
 An humble Cherub I, and of less Note,
 Yet, bold, by thy Permission, hither come,
 On high Discoveries bent.

Uriel. ————— Speak thy design.

Lucif. Urg'd by Renown of what I heard above,
 Divulg'd by Angels nearest Heav'n's high King,
 Concerning this new World, I came to view
 (If worthy such a Favour) and admire
 This last effect of our great Maker's Power :
 Thence, to my wond'ring Fellows shall I turn.
 Full fraught with joyful Tydings of these Works,

New matter of his Praise, and of our Songs.

Uriel. Thy business is not what deserves my blame,
Nor thou, thy self, unwelcome; see, fair Spirit,
Below yon' Sphere, (of matter not unlike it,)
There hangs the Ball of Earth and Water mixt,
Self-center'd, and unmov'd.

Lucif. ————— But where dwells Man?

Uriel. On yonder mount; thou seest it fenc'd with Rocks,
And round th' Ascent a Theatre of Trees,
A Sylvane Scene, which rising by degrees,
Lifts up the Eye below, nor gluts the Sight,
With one full prospect, but invites by many,
To view at last the whole: There his abode,
Thither direct thy Flight.

Lucif. ————— O blest be thou,
Who, to my low Converse, has lent thy Ear,
And favour'd my request: Hail, and farewell.

[Flies downwards out of sight.]

Uriel. Not unobserv'd thou go'st, whoe'er thou art;
Whether some Spirit, on holy Purpose bent,
Or some fall'n Angel, from below broke loose,
Who com'st with envious Eyes, and curst Intent,
To view this World, and its created Lord:
Here will I watch, and while my Orb roulds on,
Pursue from hence thy much-suspected Flight;
And, if disguis'd, pierce through the Beams of Light.

[The Chariot drives forward out of sight.]

The Scene Paradise.

Trees cut out one each side, with several Fruits upon them: A Fountain in the midst: At the far end, the Prospect terminates in Walks.

Adam. If this be dreaming, let me never wake;
But still the Joys of that sweet sleep partake,
Methought——but why I do I my bliss delay
By thinking what I thought? Fair Vision, stay;
My better half, thou softer part of me
To whom I yield my boasted Sov'raignty,
I seek my self, and find not, wanting thee.

}

[Exit.]

Enter Eve.

Eve. Tell me, ye Hills and Dales, and thou fair Sun,
Who shin'st above, what am I? Whence begun?

Like

F A L L of M A N.

11

Like my self, I see nothing : From each Tree
 The feather'd Kind peep down, to look on me.
 And Beasts, with up-cast Eyes, forsake their shade,
 And gaze, as if I were to be obey'd.
 Sure I am somewhat which they wish to be,
 And cannot : I my self am proud of me.
 What's here another Firmament below, *[Looks into a Fountain.*
 Spread wide, and other Trees that downward grow ;
 And now a Face peeps up, and now draws near,
 With smiling Looks, as pleas'd to see me here.
 As I advance, so that advances too,
 And seems to imitate whate'er I do :
 When I begin to speak, the Lips it moves,
 Streams down the Voice, as it would say it loves.
 Yet when I would embrace, it will not stay : *[Steps down to embrace.*
 Loft, e'er tis held ; when nearest, far away.
 Ah ! Fair, yet false ; Ah ! Being form'd to cheat,
 By seeming kindness, mixt with deep Deceit.

Enter Adam.

Adam. O Virgin ! Heav'n begot and born of Man,
 Thou fairest of thy great Creator's Works ;
 Thee, Goddess, thee th' Eternal did ordain
 His softer substitute on Earth to Reign :
 And wherefoe'er thy happy Foot-steps tread,
 Nature in Triumph after thee is led :
 Angels with pleasure view thy matchless Grace,
 And love their Maker's Image in thy Face.

Eve. O ! only like my self, (for nothing here
 So graceful so Majestick does appear :)
 Art thou the Form my longing Eyes did see,
 Loos'd from thy Fountain and come out to me !
 Yet, sure thou art not ; nor thy Face the same ;
 Nor thy Limbs moulded in so soft a frame :
 Thou look'st more sternly, dost more strongly move ;
 And more of Awe thou bearest, and less of Love.
 Yet pleas'd I hear thee, and above the rest,
 I, next my self admire, and love thee best.

Adam. Made to command, thus freely I obey,
 And at thy Feet the whole Creation lay.
 Pity that Love thy beauty does beget :
 What more I shall desire, I know not yet.
 First let us lock'd in those Embraces be ;
 Thence I, perhaps, may teach my self and thee

D 2

Eve.

Eve. Somewhat forbids me, which I cannot name;
For ignorant of Guilt, I fear not Shame:
But some restraining Thought, I know not why,
Tells me you long should beg, I long deny.

Adam. In vain! my Right to thee is seal'd above;
Look round, and see where thou canst place thy Love.
All Creatures else are much unworthy Thee;
They match'd, and thou alone are left for Me.
If not to Love, we both were made in vain:
I my new Empire would resign again;
And change, with my dumb Slaves, my nobler Mind,
Who, void of Reason, more of Pleasure find.
Methinks, for me they beg; each silently
Demands thy Grace, and seems to watch thine Eye.

Eve. I well foresee, whene'er thy Suit I grant,
That I my much-lov'd Sovereignty shall want:
Or like my self some other may be made,
And Her new Beauty may thy Heart invade.

Adam. Could Heav'n some greater Master-piece devise,
Set out with all the Glories of the Skies,
That Beauty yet in vain he should decree,
Unless he made another Heart for me.

Eve. With how much ease I, whom I love believe!
Giving my self, my want of Worth I grieve.
Here, my inviolable Faith I plight,
So, Thou be my Defence, I thy Delight. [*Exeunt, he leading her.*]

A C T III.

SCENE I. *Paradise.*

Lucifer. Fair Place! yet what is this to Heav'n, where I
Sate next, so almost equall'd the Most High;
I doubted, measuring both, who was more strong:
Then, willing to forget time since so long,
Scarce thought I was created; vain desire
Of Empire, in my Thoughts still shot me higher,
To mount above his sacred Head; ah why,
When he so kind, was so ungrateful I?
He bounteously bestow'd unenvy'd Good
On me; in arbitrary Grace I stood:

Tac.

T'acknowledge this, was all he did exact;
 Small Tribute, where the Will to pay was Act.
 I mourn it now, unable to repent,
 As He, who knows my Hatred to relent,
 Jealous of Pow'r once question'd : Hope, farewell ;
 And with Hope, Fear ; no Depth below my Hell
 Can be prepar'd : Then, Ill, be thou my Good ;
 And vast Destruction, be my Envy's Food.
 Thus I, with Heav'n, divided Empire gain ;
 Seducing Man, I make his Project vain,
 And in one Hour destroy his Six Days Pain.
 Then come again ; I must retire.

Enter Adam and Eve.

Adam. Thus shall we live in perfect Bliss, and see,
 Deathless our Selves, our numerous Progeny.
 Thou young and beauteous, my Desires to bless ;
 I, still desiring, what I still possess.

Eve. Heav'n, from whence Love (our greatest Blessing came)
 Can give no more, but still to be the same.
 Thou more of Pleasure mayst with me partake ;
 I, more of Pride, because thy Bliss I make.

Adam. When to my Arms thou broughtst thy Virgin-Love.
 Fair Angels sung our Bridal Hymn above :
 Th' Eternal nodding shook the Firmament,
 And conscious Nature gave her glad Consent.
 Roses unbud, and ev'ry fragrant Flower,
 Flew from their Stalks, to strow thy Nuptial Bower :
 The furr'd and feather'd Kind, the Triumph did pursue,
 And Fishes leapt above the Streams, the passing Pomp to view.

Eve. When your kind Eyes look'd languishing one mine,
 And wreathing Arms did soft Embraces join,
 A doubtful trembling seiz'd me first all o'er ;
 Then, Wishes ; and a Warmth, unknown before :
 What follow'd, was all Ecstasie and Trance ;
 Immortal Pleasures round my swimming Eyes did dance,
 And Speechless Joys, in whose sweet Tumult tost,
 I thought my Breath, and my new Being lost.

Lucif. O Death to hear ! and a worse Hell on Earth : [*Aside.*
 What mad Profusion on this Cold-born Birth !
 Abyss of Joys, as if Heav'n meant to shew
 What in base Matters, such a Hand could do :
 Or was his Virtue spent, and he no more
 With Angels could supply th'exhausted Store,
 Of which I swept the Sky ?——

And

And wanting Subjects to his haughty Will,
On this mean Work employ'd his trifling Skill.

Eve. Blest in our selves, all Pleasures else abound ;
Without our Care, behold th'unlabour'd Ground,
Bounteous of Fruit, above our shady Bowers
The creeping *Jess'min* thrusts her fragrant Flowers,
The *Myrtle*, *Orange*, and the blushing *Rose*
With bending Heaps so nigh their Blooms disclose,
Each seems to smell the Flavour which the other blows :
By these the *Peach*, the *Guava*, and the *Pine*,
And creeping 'twixt 'em all, the mant'ling *Vine*,
Does round their Trunks her purple Clusters twine.

Adam. All these are ours, all Natures Excellence,
Whose taste and smell can bless the feasted Sense :
One only Fruit, in the mid-Garden plac'd,
(The Tree of Knowledge is deny'd our Taste ;
(Our Proof of Duty to our Maker's Will :)
Of Disobedience Death's the threatned Ill.

Eve. Death is some harm, which tho' we know not, yet,
Since threatned, we must needs imagine great :
And sure he merits it, who disobeys
That one Command, and one of so much ease.

Lucif. Must they then die, if they attempt to know,
He sees they would rebel, and keeps them low.
On this Foundation I their Ruine lay ;
Hope, to know more, shall tempt to disobey.
I fell by this, and since their Strength is less,
Why should not equal Means give like Success ?

Adam. Come, my fair Love, our Morning Task we lose ;
Some Labour, e'en the easiest Life would chuse :
Ours is not great ; the dangling Boughs to crop,
Whose too luxuriant Growth our Alleys stop,
And choke the Paths: This our Delight requires,
And Heav'n no more of daily Work desires.

Eve. With thee to live is Paradise alone ;
Without the Pleasure of thy Sight is none.
I fear small progress will be made this day,
So much our Kisses will our Task delay.

[*Exeunt.*

Lucif. Why have not I, like these, a Body too
Form'd for the same Delights which they pursue ?
I could (so variously my Passions move)
Enjoy and blast her in the Act of Love.
Unwillingly I hate such Excellence ;
She wrong'd me not ; but I revenge th' Offence,
Through her, on Heav'n, whose Thunder took away
My Birthright Skies ! Live happy whilst you may,
Blest Pair, y'are not allow'd another day !

[*Exit.*] Gabriel

FALL of MAN.

15

Gabriel and Ithuriel descend, carried on bright Clouds; and flying cross each other, then light on the Ground.

Gabriel. Ithuriel, since we two commission'd are
From Heav'n the Guardians of the new-made Pair,
Each Mind his Charge; for, see, the Night draws on,
And rising Mists pursue the setting Sun.

Ithuriel. Blest is our Lot to serve; our Task we know:
To watch, lest any from th' Abyss below
Broke loose, disturb their Sleep with Dreams; or worse,
Assault their Beings with superior Force.

[Uriel flies down from the Sun.

Uriel. Gabriel, if now the Watch be set, prepare,
With strictest Guard, to show thy utmost Care.
This Morning came a Spirit, fair he seem'd,
Whom, by his Face, I some young *Cherub* deem'd;
Of Man he much enquir'd, and where his Place,
With shews of Zeal to praise his Maker's Grace;
But I, with watchful Eyes observ'd his Flight,
And saw him on yon' steepy Mount alight;
There, as he thought, unseen, he laid aside
His borrow'd Mask, and re-assum'd his Pride:
I mark'd his Looks, averse to Heav'n and Good;
Dusky he grew, and long revolving stood
On some deep, dark Design; thence shot with haste,
And o'er the Mounts of Paradise he past:
By his proud Port he seem'd the Prince of Hell;
And here he lurks in Shades till Night: Search well
Each Grove and Thicket, pry in every Shape,
Lest, hid in some, th' Arch-Hypocrite escape.

Gabriel. If any Spirit come t'invade or scout
From Hell, what Earthly Fence can keep him out?
But rest secure of this, he shall be found,
And taken, or proscrib'd this happy Ground.

Ithuriel. Thou to the East, I Westward walk the round,
And meet me in the midst. (*Uriel.*) Heav'n your Design
Succeed: Your Charge requires you, and me mine.

[Uriel flies forward out of sight.

The two Angels Exeunt severally.

A Night-Piece of a pleasant Bower: Adam and Eve asleep in it.
Enter Lucifer.

Lucifer. So, now they lie, secure in Love, and steep
Their fated Senses in full Draughts of sleep.

By

By what sure means can I their Bliss invade ?
 By Violence ? No, for they're immortal made,
 Their Reason sleeps, but Mimic Fancy wakes;
 Supplies her parts, and wild Idea's takes
 From Words and Things ill-sorted and mis-joyn'd ;
 The Anarchy of Thought and Chaos of the Mind :
 Hence Dreams confus'd and various may arise ;
 These will I set before the Woman's Eyes ;
 The weaker she, and made my easier Prey ;
 Vain Shows and Pomp the softer Sex betray.

[Lucifer sits down by Eve, and seems to whisper in her Ear.]

A Vision, where a Tree rises laden with Fruit ; four Spirits rise with it, and draw a Canopy out of the Tree ; other Spirits dance about the Tree in deform'd shapes ; after the Dance, an Angels enter with a Woman habited like Eve.

Angels singing :

Look up, look up, and see
 What Heav'n prepares for thee ;
 Look up, and this fair Fruit behold,
 Ruddy it smiles, and rich with streaks of Gold.
 The laden Branches downward bend,
 Willing they stoop, and thy fair Hand attend.
 Fair Mother of Mankind, make haste,
 And bless, and bless thy Senses with the taste.

Woman. No ; 'tis forbidden, I
 In tasting it shall die.

Angel. Say, who enjoyn'd this harsh Command ?

Woman. 'Twas Heav'n, and who can Heav'n withstand ?

Angel. Why was it made so Fair ; why plac'd in sight ?
 Heaven is too good to envy Man's Delight.
 See, we before thy Face will try,
 What thou so fear'st, and will not die.

[The Angel takes the Fruit, and gives to the Spirits who danc'd ; they immediately put off their deform'd shapes, and appear Angels.]

Angels singing. Behold what a Change on a sudden is here !
 How glorious in Beauty, how bright they appear !
 From Spirits deform'd they are Deries made,
 Their Pinions at Pleasure the Clouds can invade.

[The Angel gives to the Woman, who Eats.]

'Till equal in Honour they rise
 With Him who commands in the Skies :
 Then taste without Fear, and be happy and wife.

Woman.

Woman. Ah! now I believe; such a Pleasure I find,
As enlightens my Eyes, and enlivens my Mind.

*[The Spirits who are turn'd Angels,
fly up when they have tasted.]*
I only repent
I deferr'd my Content.

Angel. Now wiser Experience has taught you to prove,
What a Folly it is,
Out of Fear to shun Bliss.

To the Joy that's forbidden we eagerly move;
It enhances the Price, and encreases the Love.

Chorus of Both. To the Joy, &c.

*Two Angels descend; they take the Woman each by the Hand, and fly up
with her out of sight. The Angel who sung, and the Spirits who held
the Canopy, at the same instant sink down with the Tree.*

Enter Gabriel and Ithuriel to Lucifer, who remains.

Gabriel. What art thou? speak, thy Name, and thy Intent.
Why here alone? and on what Errand sent?
Not from above? No, thy wan Looks betray
Diminish'd Light, and Eyes unus'd to day.

Lucifer. Not to know me, argues thy self unknown:
Time was, when shining next th' Imperial Throne,
I sat in awful State, while such as thou
Did, in the ignoble Crowd, at distance bow.

Gabriel. Think'st thou, vain Spirit, thy Glories are the same?
And seest not Sin obscures thy Godlike Frame?
I know thee now by thy ungrateful Pride;
That shows me what thy faded Looks did hide.
Traytor to Him who made, and set thee high;
And Fool, that Pow'r which form'd thee to despise.

Lucifer. Go, Slaves, return, and fawn in Heav'n again;
Seek thanks from Him, whose Quarrel you maintain.
Vile Wretches! of your Servitude to boast:
You basely keep the Place I bravely lost.

Ithuriel. Freedom is choice of what we will and do:
Then blame not Servants who are freely so.
'Tis base not to acknowledge what we owe.

Lucifer. Thanks, howe'er due, proclaim Subjection yet;
I fought for Power to quit th' upbraided Debt.
Whoe'er expects our Thanks, himself repays;
And seems but little, who can want our Praise.

Gabriel. What in us Duty, shows not want in Him:
Blest in Himself alone.

To whom no Praise we, by good Deeds, can add;
Nor can his Glory suffer from our bad.

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 With Him who commands in the Skies :
 Then taste without Fear, and be happy and wise.

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Gabriel. What in us Duty, shows not want in Him:
Blest in Himself alone.

To whom no Praise we, by good Deeds, can add;
Nor can his Glory suffer from our bad.

Made for His Use ; yet He has form'd us so,
 We, unconstrain'd, what he commands us, do.
 So praise we Him, and serve Him freely best :
 Thus thou, by choice, art fallen, and we are blest.

Ithuriel. This, lest thou think thy Plea, unanswer'd, good,
 Our Question thou evad'st : How didst thou dare
 To break Hell Bounds, and near this Humane Pair
 In nightly ambush lie ?

Lucifer. Lives there who would not seek to force his way
 From Pain to Ease, from Darkness to the Day ?
 Should I, who found the means t'escape not dare
 To change my sulph'rous Smoke, for upper Air ?
 When I in fight sustain'd your Thunderer,
 And Heav'n on me alone spent half his War,
 Think'st thou those Wounds were light ? Should I not seek
 The Clemency of some more temp'rate Clime
 To purge my Gloom ; and by the Sun refin'd,
 Bask in his Beams, and bleach me in the Wind ?

Gabriel. If Pain to shun be all thy Bus'ness here,
 Methinks thy Fellows the same course should steer.
 Is their Painless, who yet behind thee stay ?
 Or thou less hardy to endure than they ?

Lucifer. Nor one, nor t'other ; but as Leaders ought,
 I ventur'd first alone ; first Danger sought :
 And first explor'd this new-created Frame :
 Which fill'd our dusky Regions with its Fame :
 In hopes my fainting Troops to settle here,
 And to defend against your Thunderer,
 This spot of Earth, or nearer Heav'n repair,
 And forrage to his Gates from middle Air.

Ithuriel. Fool ! To believe thou any part canst gain
 From Him, who couldst not thy first Ground maintain.

Gabriel. But whether that Design, or one as vain,
 T'attempt the Lives of these, first drew thee here ;
 Avoid the Place, and never more appear
 Upon this Hallow'd Earth, else prove our Might.

Lucifer. Not that I fear, do I decline the Fight :
 You I disdain ; let me with him contend,
 On whom your liminary Powers depend.
 More Honour from the Sender than the Sent ;
 Till then, I have accomplish'd my Intent ;
 And leave this Place, which but augments my Pain,
 Gazing to wish, yet hopeless to obtain.

[Exit.
 [They following him.]

A C T.

ACT IV.

SCENE I. *Paradise.*

Adam and Eve.

Adam. Strange was your Dream, and full of sad Portent ;
 S Avert it Heav'n, (if it from Heav'n were sent :)
 Let on thy Foes the dire Presages fall ;
 To us be good and easie when we call.

Eve. Behold from far a breaking Cloud appears,
 Which, in it, many winged Warriors bears.
 Their Glory shoots upon my aking Sense ;
 Thou stronger may'st endure the Flood of Light ;
 And while in Shades I clear my fainting Sight,
 Encounter the descending Excellence.

[Exit.

The Cloud descends with six Angels in it ; and when 'tis near the Ground, breaks ; and on each side, discovers six more : They descend out of the Cloud. Raphael and Gabriel discourse with Adam, the rest stand at distance.

Raph. First of Mankind, that we from Heav'n are sent,
 Is from Heav'n's Care thy ruine to prevent.
 Th' Apostate Angel has, by Night, been here,
 And whisper'd through thy sleeping Consort's Ear
 Delusive Dreams ; thus warn'd by us, beware ;
 And guide her Frailty by thy timely Care.

Gabriel. These, as thy Guards from outward Harms, are sent
 Ills from within, thy Reason must prevent.

Adam. Natives of Heav'n, who in Compassion deign
 To want that Place where Joys immortal reign,
 In care of me ; what Praises can I pay,
 Defended in Obedience, taught t'obey ?

Raph. Praise him alone, who, God-like form'd thee free
 With Will unbounded as a Deity ;
 Who gave thee Reason, as thy Aid to chuse
 Apparent Good, and Evil to refuse.
 Obedience is that Good : This Heav'n exacts ;
 And Heav'n, all Just, from Man requires, not acts ;
 Which Man wants Pow'r to do : Pow'r then is giv'n
 Of dooing good ; but not compell'd by Heav'n.

Gabriel. Made good ; that thou dost to thy Maker owe :
 But to thy self if thou continu'st so.

E 2

Adam.

Adam. Freedom of Will, of all good things is best ;
But can it be by finite Man possess'd ?

I know not how Heav'n can communicate
What equals Man to his Creator's State.

Raphael. Heav'n cannot give his boundless Pow'r away ;
But boundless Liberty of Choice he may.
So Orbs, from the first Mover, Motion take ;
Yet each their proper Revolutions make.

Adam. Grant Heav'n could once have giv'n us liberty ;
Are we not bounded, now, by firm Decree,
Since whatso'er is pre-ordain'd, must be ?
Else Heav'n, for Man, Events might pre-ordain,
And Man's Free-will might make those Orders vain.

Gabriel. Th'Eternal, when he did the World create,
All other Agents did necessitate :
So, what he order'd, they, by Nature, do ;
Thus light things mount, and heavy downward go.
Man only boasts an arbitrary State.

Adam. Yet Causes their Effects necessitate
In willing Agents : Where is Freedom then ?
Or who can break the Chain which limits Men
To act what is unchangeably forecast,
Since the first Cause gives motion to the last ?

Raphael. Heav'n by fore-knowing what will surely be,
Does only, first, Effects in Causes see ;
And finds, but does not make Necessity.
Creation is of Pow'r, and Will th'Effect,
Fore-knowledge only of his Intellect ;
His Prescience makes not, but supposes things ;
Infers Necessity to be ; not brings.
Thus thou art not constrain'd to Good or Ill :
Causes which work th'Effect, force not the Will.

Adam. The Force unseen, and distant, I confess ;
But the long Chain makes not the Bondage less.
Ev'n Man himself may to himself seem free,
And think that Choice which is Necessity.

Gabriel. And who but Man should judge of Man's free State ?

Adam. I find that I can chuse to love, or hate ;
Obey, or disobey ; do good, or ill ;
Yet such a Choice is but Consent, not Will.
I can but chuse what he has first design'd.
For he, before that Choice, my Will confin'd.

Gabriel. Such impious Fancies, where they entrance gain,
Made Heav'n, all pure, thy Crimes to pre-ordain.

Adam. Far, far from me be banish'd such a Thought :
I argue only to be better taught.

Can there be Freedom, when what now seems free
Was founded on some first Necessity?

For whate'er Cause can move the Will t'elect,
Must be sufficient to produce th'Effect:

And what's sufficient, must effectual be:

Then how is Man, thus forc'd by Causes, free?

Raph. Sufficient Causes only work th'Effect,
When necessary Agents they respect.

Such is not Man, who tho' the Cause suffice,
Yet often he his free Assent denies.

Adam. What causes not, is not sufficient still.

Gabriel. Sufficient in it self; not in thy Will.

Raph. When we see Causes join'd t'Effects at last,
The Chain but shews Necessity that's past.

That what's done, is; (ridiculous Proof of Fate!)

Tell me which part it does necessitate;

I'll chuse the other; there I'll link th'Effect.

O Chain, which Fools, to catch themselves, project!

Adam. Tho' no constraint from Heaven, or Causes be,
Heav'n may prevent that Ill He does foresee:

And, not preventing, tho' he does not cause,

He seems to will that Man should break his Laws.

Gabriel. Heav'n may permit, but not to Ill consent:

For hind'ring Ill, he would all Choice prevent.

'Twere to unmake, to take away the Will.

Adam. Better constrain'd to Good, than free to Ill.

Raph. But what Reward or Punishment could be,
If Man to neither Good nor Ill were free?

Th'Eternal Justice could decree no Pain

To him whose Sins it self did first ordain;

And Good compell'd, could no Reward exact:

His Pow'r would shine in Goodness, not thy Act.

Our Task is done, obey, and in that Choice,

Thou shalt be blest, and Angels shall rejoyce.

[Raphael and Gabriel fly up in the
Cloud; the other Angels go off.]

Adam. Hard state of Life! Since Heav'n fore-knows my Will,
Why am I not ty'd up from doing Ill?

Why am I trusted with my self at large,

When he's more able to sustain the Charge?

Since Angels fell, whose Strength was more than mine,

'Twould show more Grace my Frailty to confine.

Fore-knowing the Success, to leave me free,

Excuses him, and yet supports not me.

To him, Eve.

Eve. Behold, my Heart's dear Lord, how high the Sun

Is mounted, yet our Labour not begun,

The

12 *The State of Innocence, and*

The Ground, unbid, gives more than we can ask ;
But Work is Pleasure when we chuse our Task.
Nature, not bounteous now, but lavish grows,
Our Paths with Flow'rs she prodigally strows ;
With Pain we lift up our intangled Feet,
While cross our Walks the shooting Branches meet.

Adam. Well has thy care advis'd ; 'tis fit we haste ;
Nature's too kind, and follows us too fast ;
Leaves us no room her Treasures to possess,
But mocks our Industry with her Excess ;
And wildly wanton wears by Night away
The sign of all our Labours done by Day.

Eve. Since then the Work's so great, the Hands so few,
This Day let each a sev'ral Task pursue.
By thee, my Hands to labour will not move,
But round thy Neck employ themselves in Love.
When thou wouldst work, one tender touch, one smile
(How can I hold ?) will all thy Task beguile.

Adam. So hard we are not to our Labour ty'd,
That Smiles and soft Endearments are deny'd.
Smiles not allow'd to Beasts, from Reason move,
And are the Priviledge of Humane Love :
And if, sometimes, each others Eyes we meet,
Those little Vacancies from Toil are sweet.
But you, by absence, would refresh your Joys,
Because, perhaps, my Conversation cloy.
Yet this, would Prudence grant, I could permit.

Eve. What Reason makes my small Request unfit ?

Adam. The fall'n Archangel, envious of our state,
Pursues our Being with Immortal Hate.
And hopeless to prevail by open Force,
Seeks hid Advantage, to betray us worse :
Which when assunder, will not prove so hard ;
For both together are each others Guard.

Eve. Since he, by Force, is hopeless to prevail,
He can by Fraud alone our Minds assail :
And to believe his Wiles my Truth can move,
Is to misdoubt my Reason or my Love.

Adam. Call it my Care, and not mistrust of thee ;
Yet thou art weak, and full of Arts is he ;
Else how could he that Host seduce to Sin,
Whose Fall have left the Heavenly Nation thin ?

Eve. I grant him arm'd with Subtilty and Hate ;
But why should we suspect our happy state ?
Is our Perfection of so frail a make,
As ev'ry Plot can undermine and shake ?

Think

Think better both of Heav'n, thy self and me,
Who always fears, at ease can never be.
Poor state of Bliss, where so much Care is shown,
As not to dare to trust our selves alone !

Adam. Such is our state, as not exempt from fall ;
Yet firm, if Reason to our Aid we call :
And that, in both, is stronger than in one ;
I would not, why wouldst thou, then, be alone ?

Eve. Because thus warn'd, I know my self secure,
And long my little Trial to endure,
T'approve my Faith, thy needless Fears remove ;
Gain thy Esteem, and so deserve thy Love.
If all this shake not thy obdurate Will,
Know that ev'n present, I am absent still :
And then what Pleasure hop'st thou in my stay,
When I'm constrain'd, and wish my self away.

Adam. Constraint does ill with Love and Beauty sute ;
I would perswade, but not be absolute.
Better be much remiss than too severe,
If pleas'd in absence, thou wilt still be here :
Go, in thy Native Innocence proceed,
And summon all thy Reason at thy Need.

Eve. My Soul, my Eyes Delight ; in this I find
Thou lov'st, because to love is to be kind. [*Embracing him.*]
Seeking my Tryal, I am still on guard :
Trials less fought, would find us less prepar'd.
Our Foe's too proud the weaker to assail,
Or doubles his Dishonour if he fail.

Adam. In Love, what use of Prudence can there be ?
More perfect I, and yet more powerful She.
Blame me not, Heav'n, if thou Love's Pow'r has try'd,
What could be so unjust to be deny'd ?
One Look of hers my Resolution breaks ;
Reason it self turns Folly when she speaks :
And aw'd by her, whom it was made to sway,
Flatters her Pow'r, and does its own betray.

*The Middle Part of the Garden is represented, where four Rivers meet,
on the right side of the Scene, is plac'd the Tree of Life ; on the left,
the Tree of Knowledge.*

Enter Lucifer.

Lucifer. Methinks the Beauties of this Place should mourn ;
Th'immortal Fruits and Flowers at my return
Should hang their wither'd Heads ; for sure my Breath
Is now more poy'snous, and has gather'd Death.

Enough

Enough to blast the whole Creation's Frame :
 Swoln with Despite, with Sorrow, and with Shame,
 Thrice have I beat the Wing, and rid with Night
 About the World, behind the Globe of Light,
 To shun the Watch of Heav'n ; such Care I use :
 (What Pains would Malice, rais'd like mine, refuse ?
 Not the most abject Form of Brutes to take.)
 Hid in the spiry Volumes of the Snake.
 I lurk'd within the Covert of a Brake ;
 Not yet descry'd. But, see, the Woman here
 Alone ! Beyond my Hopes ! no Guardian near ;
 Good Omen that : I must retire unseen,
 And with my borrow'd Shape, the Work begin.

[Retires.]

Enter Eve.

Eve. Thus far, at least, with leave ; nor can it be
 A Sin to look on this Cœlestial Tree :
 I would not more ; to touch, a Crime may prove :
 Touching is a remoter Taste in Love.
 Death may be there, or Poyson in the Smell,
 (If Death in any thing so fair can dwell ;)
 But Heav'n forbids, I could be satisfy'd,
 Were every Tree but this, but this deny'd.

A Serpent enters on the Stage, and makes directly to the Tree of Knowledge ; on which winding himself, he plucks an Apple ; then descends, and carries it away.

Strange Sight ! Did then our great Creator grant
 That Priviledge, which we their Masters want,
 To these Inferior Beings ? Or was it Chance ?
 And was he blest with bolder Ignorance ?
 I saw his curling Crest the Trunk infold :
 The ruddy Fruit distinguish'd o'er with Gold,
 And smiling in its Native Wealth, was torn
 From the rich Bough, and then in Triumph born :
 The vent'rous Victor march'd unpunish'd hence,
 And seem'd to boast his fortunate Offence.

To her Lucifer in a Humane Shape.

Lucifer. Hail, Sovereign of this Orb ! form'd to possess
 The World, and, with one Look, all Nature blest.
 Nature is thine ; Thou, Empress, dost bestow
 On Fruits, to blossom ; and on Flowers to blow,
 They happy, yet insensible to boast
 Their Bliss : More happy they who know the most.

Then

Then happiest I, to Humane Reason rais'd,
And Voice, with whose first Accents thou art prais'd.

Eve. What art thou? Or from whence? For on this Ground,
Beside my Lord's, ne'er heard I Humane Sound.
Art thou some other *Adam* form'd from Earth,
And com'st to claim an equal Share, by Birth,
In this fair Field? Or sprung of Heavenly Race?

Lucifer. An humble Native of this happy Place,
Thy Vassal born, and late of lowest Kind,
Whom Heaven neglecting made, and scarce design'd,
But threw me in, for number, to the rest,
Below the mounting Bird, and grazing Beast;
By Chance, not Prudence, now Superior grown.

Eve. To make thee such, what Miracle was shown?

Lucifer. Who would not tell what thou vouchsaf'st to hear?
Saw'st thou not late a speckled Serpent rear
His gilded Spires to climb on yon' fair Tree?
Before this happy minute I was he.

Eve. Thou speak'st of Wonders: Make thy Story plain.

Lucifer. Not wishing then, and thoughtless to obtain
So great a Bliss; but led by sense of Good,
In-born to all, I sought my needful Food:
Then, on that Heav'nly Tree my Sight I cast;
The Colour urg'd my Eye, the Scent my Taste.
Not to detain thee long, I took, did eat:
Scarce had my Palate touch'd th'Immortal Meat,
But on a sudden turn'd to what I am,
God like, and next to thee, I fair became:
Thought, spake, and reason'd; and, by Reason found
Thee, Nature's Queen, with all her Graces crown'd.

Eve. Happy thy Lot; but far unlike is mine:
Forbid to eat, not daring to repine.
'Twas Heav'n's Command, and should we disobey,
What rais'd thy Beings, ours must take away.

Lucifer. Sure you mistake the Precept, or the Tree:
Heav'n cannot envious of his Blessings be.
Some chance-born Plant he might forbid your Use,
As wild, or guilty of a deadly Juice:
Not this, whose Colour, Scent Divine and Taste,
Proclaim the thoughtful Maker not in haste.

Eve. By all these signs too well I know the Fruit,
And dread a Power severe and absolute.

Lucifer. Severe indeed, ev'n to Injustice hard,
If Death, for knowing more, be your Reward:
Knowledge of Good, is good; and therefore fit;
And to know Ill, is good, for shunning it;

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FALL of MAN.

25

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F

Eve.

Eve. What, but our Good, could he design in this,
Who gave us all, and plac'd in perfect Bliss?

Lucifer. Excuse my Zeal, fair Sov'reign in your Cause,
Which dares to tax his arbitrary Laws:
'Tis all his aim to keep you blindly low,
That servile Fear from Ignorance may flow:
We scorn to worship whom too well we know.
He knows that eating, you shall God-like be;
As wise, as fit to be ador'd as he.
For his own Int'rest he this Law has given;
Such Beauty may rise Factions in his Heaven.
By awing you, he does Possession keep,
And is too wise to hazard Partnership.

Eve. Alas, who dares dispute with him that Right?
The Power which form'd us must be infinite.

Lucifer. Who told you how your Form was first design'd?
The Sun and Earth produce of ev'ry kind;
Grass, Flowers, and Fruits; nay, living Creatures too
Their Mould was base; 'twas more refin'd in you;
Where Vital Heat in purer Organs wrought,
Produc'd a nobler Kind, rais'd up to Thought;
And that, perhaps, might his Beginning be:
Something was first, I question if 'twere He.
But grant him first, yet still suppose him good,
Not envying those he made, immortal Food.

Eve. But Death our Disobedience must pursue.

Lucifer. Behold in me, what shall arrive to you.
I tasted, yet I live; nay, more, have got
A state more perfect than my Native Lot.
Nor fear this petty Fault his Wrath should raise;
Heaven rather will your dauntless Virtue praise,
That fought, through threatn'd Death, immortal Good:
Gods are immortal only by their Food.
Taste, and remove.

What difference does 'twixt them and you remain:
As I gain'd Reason, you shall Godhead gain.

Eve aside.] He eats and lives, in Knowledge greater grown:
Was Death invented then for us alone?
Is Intellectual Food to Man deny'd,
Which Brutes have, with so much advantage, try'd:
Nor only try'd themselves, but, frankly, more
To me have offer'd their unenvy'd store.

Lucifer. Be bold, and all your needless Doubts remove:
View well this Tree, (the Queen of all the Grove)
How vast her Bole, how wide her Arms are spread!
How high above the rest she shoots her Head,

Plac'd

Plac'd in the midst ! Would Heaven his Works disgrace,
By planting Poyson in the happiest Place ?
Haste ; you lose time and Godhead by delay. [*Plucking the Fruit.*

Eve looking about her. 'Tis done ; I'll venture all, and disobey,
Perhaps, far hid in Heaven, he does not spy ;
And none of all his Hymning Guards are nigh.
To my dear Lord the Lovely Fruit I'll bear ;
He, to partake my Bliss, my Crime shall share. [*Exit hastily.*

Lucifer. She flew, and thank'd me not, for haste ; 'twas hard
With no return such Counsel to reward.
My Work is done, or much the greater part ;
She's now the Tempter to ensnare his Heart.
He, whose firm Faith no Reason could remove,
Will melt before that soft Seducer, Love. [*Exit.*

A C T V.

SCENE I. *Paradise.*

Eve, with a Bough in her Hand.

Eve. **M**Ethinks I tread more lightly on the Ground ;
My nimble Feet from unhurt Flowers rebound :
I walk in Air, and scorn this Earthly Seat ;
Heaven is my Palace, this may base Retreat.
Take me not, Heav'n, too soon, 'twill be unkind
To leave the Partner of my Bed behind.
I love the Wretch : But stay, shall I afford
Him part ? already he's too much my Lord.
'Tis in my Pow'r to be a Sov'reign now,
And, knowing more, to make his Manhood bow.
Empire is sweet ; but how if Heav'n has spy'd ?
If I should die, and he above provide
Some other *Eve*, and place her in my stead,
Shall she possess his Love, when I am dead ?
No ; he shall eat and die with me, or live :
Our equal Crimes shall equal Fortune give.

Enter Adam.

Adam. What Joy, without your Sight, hath Earth in store ?
While you were absent, *Eden* was no more.

Winds murmur'd through the Leaves, your long delay ;
 And Fountains o'er their Pebbles chid your stay.
 But with your Presence cheer'd, they cease to mourn,
 And Walks wear fresher Green, at your Return.

Eve. Henceforth you never shall have cause to chide,
 No future Absence shall our Joys divide :

'Twas a strange Death, my Love ne'er try'd before.
 And therefore strange ; but yet the Cause was more.

Adam. My trembling Heart forbodes some Ill : I fear
 To ask that Cause which I desire to hear.

What means that lovely Fruit ? what means (alas !)

That Blood, which flushes guilty in your Face ?

Speak——do not——yet, at last I must be told.

Eve. Have Courage then ; 'tis Manly to be bold.
 This Fruit——why shouldst thou shake, no Death is nigh ;
 'Tis what I tasted first, yet do not die.

Adam. Is it ?——(I dare not ask it all at first ;
 Doubt is some ease to those who fear the worst :)
 Say, 'Tis not.

Eve. ——'Tis not what thou needst to fear ;
 What danger does in this fair Fruit appear ?
 We have been cozen'd, and had still been so,
 Had I not ventur'd boldly first to know.
 Yet not I first, I almost blush to say,
 The Serpent eating taught me first the way.
 The Serpent tasted, and the God-like Fruit,
 Gave the Dumb Voice, gave Reason to the Brute.

Adam. O fairest of all Creatures, last and best,
 Of what Heaven made, how art thou dispossest
 Of all thy Native Glories ! fall'n ! decay'd !
 (Pity so rare a Frame so frail was made !)
 Now cause of thine own Ruine ! and with thine,
 (Ah ! who can live without thee !) cause of mine :

Eve. Reserve thy Pity till I want it more :
 I know my self much happier than before ;
 More wise, more perfect, all I wish to be,
 Were I but sure, alas ! of pleasing thee.

Adam. Y'have shown how much you my Content design :
 Yet, ah ! would Heav'n's Displeasure pass like mine.
 Must I without you, then, in wild Woods dwell ?
 Think, and but think of what I lov'd so well :
 Condemn'd to live with Subjects ever mute ;
 A salvage Prince, unpleas'd, tho' absolute.

Eve. Please then your self with me, and freely taste,
 Lest I, without you, should to Godhead haste ;
 Lest diff'ring in degree you claim too late
 Unequal Love, when 'tis deny'd by Fate.

Adam.

Adam. Cheat not your self with Dreams of Deity ;
Too well, but yet too late, your Crime I see :
Nor think the Fruit your Knowledge does improve ;
But you have Beauty still, and I have Love.
Not cozen'd, I with choice my Life resign :
Imprudence was your Fault, but Love was mine.

[Takes the Fruit, and eats it.

Eve embracing him.] O wond'rous pow'r of matchless Love express !
Why was this Trial thine of loving best ?
I envy thee that Lot ; and, could it be,
Would venture something more than Death for thee,
Not that I fear that Death th' Event can prove ;
We are both Immortal, while so well we love.

Adam. Whate'er shall be th' Event, the Lot is cast :
Where Appetites are giv'n, what Sin to taste ?
Or if a Sin, 'tis but by Precept such :
Th' Offence so small, the Punishment's too much,
To seek so soon his new-made World's decay :
Nor we ; nor that, were fashion'd for a Day.

Eve. Give to the Winds thy fear of Death, or Ill ;
And think us made but for each other's Will.

Adam. I will, at least defer that anxious Thought,
And Death, by Fear, shall not be nigher brought :
If He will come, let Us to Joys make haste ;
Then let him seize us when our Pleasure's past.
We'll take up all before ; and Death shall find
We have drain'd Life, and left a Void behind.

[Exeunt.]

Enter Lucifer.

Lucifer. 'Tis done,
Sick Nature, at that instant, trembled round ;
And Mother-Earth sigh'd as she felt the Wound.
Of how short durance was this new-made state !
How far more mighty than Heav'n's Love, Hell's Hate !
His Project ruin'd, and his King of Clay :
He form'd an Empire for his Foe to sway.
Heav'n let him rule, which by his Arms he got ;
I'm pleas'd to have obtain'd the second Lot.
This Earth is mine ; whose Lord I made my Thrall,
Annexing to my Crown his conquer'd Ball.
Loos'd from the Lakes my Legions I will lead,
And, o'er the dark'ned Air black Banners spread :
Contagious Damps, from hence, shall mount above,
And force him to his inmost Heav'n's remove.

A

[A Clap of Thunder is heard.]

He hears already, and I boast too soon ;
 I dread that Engine which secur'd his Throne.
 I'll dive below his Wrath, into the Deep.
 And waste that Empire which I cannot keep.

[Sinks down.]

Raphael and Gabriel descend.

Raphael. As much of Grief as Happiness admits,
 In Heav'n, on each Coelestial Forehead sits :
 Kindness for Man, and Pity for his Fate,
 May mix with Bliss, and yet not violate.
 Their Heavenly Harps a lower Strain began,
 And in soft Musick mourn'd the Fall of Man.

Gabriel. I saw th'Angelic Guards from Earth ascend,
 (Griev'd they must now no longer Man attend :)
 The Beams about their Temples dimly shone,
 One would have thought the Crime had been their own.
 The Etherial People flock'd for News in haste,
 Whom they, with down-cast Looks, and scarce saluting past :
 While each did, in his pensive Breast, prepare
 A sad Account of their successful Care.

Raphael. Th'Eternal yet, in Majesty severe,
 And strictest Justice, did mild Pity bear :
 Their Death's deferr'd, and Banishment (their Doom)
 In Penitence foreseen, leaves Mercy room.

Gabriel. That Message is thy Charge ; mine leads me hence,
 Plac'd at the Garden's Gate for its Defence,
 Left Man returning, the best Place pollute,
 And 'scape from Death, by Life's immortal Fruit.

Another Clap of Thunder.

[Exeunt severally.]

Enter Adam and Eve, affrighted.

Adam. In what dark Cavern shall I hide my Head
 Where seek retreat, now Innocence is fled :
 Safe in that Guard, I durst ev'n Hell defie ;
 Without it, tremble now, when Heav'n is nigh.

Eve. What shall we do, or where direct our flight ?
 Eastward as far as I could cast my Sight,
 From op'ning Heavens, I saw descending Light :
 Its glittering through the Trees I still behold ;
 The Cedar-tops seem all to burn with Gold.

Adam. Some Shape Divine, whose Beams I cannot bear !
 Would I were hid where Light could not appear,
 Deep into some thick Covert would I run,
 Impenetrable to the Stars, or Sun :

And

FALL of MAN.

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And fenc'd from Day, by Night's Eternal Skreen;
Unknown to Heav'n, and to my self unseen.

Eve. In vain; what hope to shun his piercing Sight,
Who, from dark Chaos, struke the Sparks of Light?

Adam. These should have been your thoughts when parting hence;
You trusted to your guideless Innocence.

See now the th' Effects of your own wilful Mind:
Guilt walks before us, Death pursues behind.

So fatal 'twas to seek Temptations out:
Most Confidence has still most cause to doubt.

Eve. Such might have been thy Hap, alone assail'd;
And so, together, might we both have fail'd.

Curs'd Vassalage of all my future Kind:
First idoliz'd, till Love's hot Fire be o'er,
Then Slaves to those who courted us before.

Adam. I counsel'd you to stay; your Pride refus'd:
By your own lawless Will you stand accus'd.

Eve. Have you that Privilege of only Wife,
And would you yield to her you so despise?
You should have shown th' Authority you boast,
And, Sov'reign-like my headlong Will have crost.
Counsel was not enough to sway my Heart;
An absolute Restraint had been your part.

Adam. Ev'n such Returns do they deserve to find,
When Force is lawful, who are fondly kind.
Unlike my Love: for when thy Guilt I knew,
I shar'd the Curse which did that Crime pursue.
Hard Fate of Love! which Rigour did forbear,
And now 'tis tax'd, because 'twas not severe.

Eve. You have, your self, your Kindness over-paid;
He ceases to oblige, who can upbraid.

Adam. On Woman's Virtue, who too much rely,
To boundless Will give boundless Liberty.
Restraint you will not brook; but think it hard
Your Prudence is not trusted as your Guard:
And to your selves so left, if Ill ensues,
You first our weak Indulgence will accuse.
Curst be that Hour——

When fated with my single Happiness,
I chose a Partner to controul my Bliss;
Who wants that Reason which her Will should sway,
And knows but just enough to disobey.

Eve. Better with Brutes my humble Lot had gone;
Of Reason void, accountable for none:
Th' unhappiest of Creation is a Wife,
Made lowest, in the highest Rank of Life.

He

Her Fellow's Slave; to know, and not to chuse:
Curst with that Reason she must never use.

Adam. Add, that's She's proud, fantastick, apt to change;
Useless at home, and ever prone to range:
With Shows delighted, and so vain is She,
She'll meet the Devil, rather than not see.
Our wise Creator, for his Choires Divine,
Peopled his Heav'n with Souls all Masculine.
Ah! why must Man from Woman take his Birth?
Why was this Sin of Nature made on Earth?
This fair Defect, this helpless Aid, call'd Wife;
The bending Crutch of a decrepit Life.
Posterity no Pairs from you shall find,
But such as by mistake of Love are join'd:
The worthiest Men their Wishes ne'er shall gain;
But see the Slaves they scorn, their Loves obtain.
Blind Appetite shall your Wild Fancies Rule;
False to desert, and faithful to a Fool.

*[Turns in anger from her,
and is going off.]*

Eve kneeling.] Unkind! wilt thou forsake me in distress,
For that which now is past me to redress?
I have misdone; and I endure the smart:
Loth to acknowledge, but more loth to part.
The blame be mine; you warn'd, and I refus'd:
What would you more? I have my self accus'd.
Was plighted Faith so weakly seal'd above,
That, for one Error, I must lose your Love?
Had you so err'd, I should have been more kind,
Than to add pain to an afflicted Mind.

Adam. Y're grown much humbler than you were before:
I pardon you; but see my Face no more.

Eve. Vain Pardon, which includes a greater Ill:
Be still displeas'd; but let me see you still.
Without your much-lov'd Sight, I cannot live:
You more than kill me, if you so forgive.
The Beasts, since we are fall'n, their Lord's despise;
And, passing, look at me with glaring Eyes?
Must I then wander helpless and alone?
You'll pity me too late when I am gone.

Adam. Your Penitence does my Compassion move;
As you deserve it, I may give my Love.

Eve. On me alone let Heav'n's Displeasure fall;
You merit none, and I deserve it all.

Adam. You all Heav'n's Wrath! how could you bear a part,
Who bore not mine, but with a bleeding Heart?

I was

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93

I was too stubborn, thus to make you sue :
 Forgive me, I am more in fault than you.
 Return to me, and to my Love return ;
 And, both offending, for each other mourn.

Enter Raphael.

Raphael. Of Sin to warn thee, I before was sent ;
 For Sin, I now pronounce thy Punishment.
 Yet that much lighter than thy Crimes require ;
 Th'All-Good does not his Creatures Death desire :
 Justice must punish the Rebellious Deed :
 Yet punish so, as Pity shall exceed.

Adam. I neither can dispute his Will, nor dare ;
 Death will dismiss me from my future Care,
 And lay me softly in my Native Dust,
 To pay the forfeit of ill-manag'd Trust.

Eve. Why seek you Death ? Consider e'er you speak ?
 The Laws were hard, the Pow'r to keep 'em, weak.
 Did we sollicit Heav'n to mould our Clay,
 From Darkness, to produce us to the Day ?
 Did we concur to Life, or chuse to be ?
 Was it our Will which form'd, or was it He ?
 Since 'twas His Choice, not ours, which plac'd us here,
 The Laws we did not chuse, why should we bear ?

Adam. Seek not in vain our Maker to accuse :
 Terms were propos'd ; Power left us to refuse,
 The Good we have enjoy'd from Heav'n's Free-will,
 And shall we murmur to endure the Ill ?
 Should we a Rebel-Son's Excuse receive,
 Because he was begot without his leave ?
 Heav'n's Right in us is more ; first, form'd to serve ;
 The Good we merit not, the Ill deserve.

Raphael. Death is deferr'd, and Penitence has room
 To mitigate, if not reverse the Doom :
 But, for your Crime, th'Eternal does ordain
 In *Eden* you no longer shall remain.
 Hence to the lower World you are exil'd :
 This Place, with Crimes, shall be no more defil'd.

Eve. Must we this blissful Paradise forego ?

Raphael. Your Lot must be where Thorns and Thistles grow
 Unbid, as Balm and Spices did at first ;
 For Man, the Earth, of which he was, is curst :

To Adam. By thy own Toil procur'd, thou Food shalt eat,
 And know not Plenty, but from painful Sweat.
 She, by a Curse, of future Wives abbor'd,
 Shall pay Obedience to her lawful Lord :

Her Fellow's Slave; to know, and not to chuse:
Curst with that Reason she must never use.

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[*Turns in anger from her,
and is going off.*]

Eve kneeling.] Unkind! wilt thou forsake me in distress,
For that which now is past me to redress?
I have misdone; and I endure the smart:
Loth to acknowledge, but more loth to part.
The blame be mine; you warn'd, and I refus'd:
What would you more? I have my self accus'd.
Was plighted Faith so weakly seal'd above,
That, for one Error, I must lose your Love?
Had you so err'd, I should have been more kind,
Than to add pain to an afflicted Mind.

Adam. Y're grown much humbler than you were before:
I pardon you; but see my Face no more.

Eve. Vain Pardon, which includes a greater Ill:
Be still displeas'd; but let me see you still.
Without your much-lov'd Sight, I cannot live:
You more than kill me, if you so forgive.
The Beasts, since we are fall'n, their Lord's despise;
And, passing, look at me with glaring Eyes?
Must I then wander helpless and alone?
You'll pity me too late when I am gone.

Adam. Your Penitence does my Compassion move;
As you deserve it, I may give my Love.

Eve. On me alone let Heav'n's Displeasure fall;
You merit none, and I deserve it all.

Adam. You all Heav'n's Wrath! how could you bear a part,
Who bore not mine, but with a bleeding Heart?

I was

FALL of MAN.

33

I was too stubborn, thus to make you sue :
 Forgive me, I am more in fault than you.
 Return to me, and to my Love return ;
 And, both offending, for each other mourn.

Enter Raphael.

Raphael. Of Sin to warn thee, I before was sent ;
 For Sin, I now pronounce thy Punishment.
 Yet that much lighter than thy Crimes require ;
 Th'All-Good does not his Creatures Death desire :
 Justice must punish the Rebellious Deed :
 Yet punish so, as Pity shall exceed.

Adam. I neither can dispute his Will, nor dare ;
 Death will dismiss me from my future Care,
 And lay me softly in my Native Dust,
 To pay the forfeit of ill-manag'd Trust.

Eve. Why seek you Death ? Consider e'er you speak ?
 The Laws were hard, the Pow'r to keep 'em, weak.
 Did we sollicit Heav'n to mould our Clay,
 From Darkness, to produce us to the Day ?
 Did we concur to Life, or chuse to be ?
 Was it our Will which form'd, or was it He ?
 Since 'twas His Choice, not ours, which plac'd us here,
 The Laws we did not chuse, why should we bear ?

Adam. Seek not in vain our Maker to accuse :
 Terms were propos'd ; Power left us to refuse,
 The Good we have enjoy'd from Heav'n's Free-will,
 And shall we murmur to endure the Ill ?
 Should we a Rebel-Son's Excuse receive,
 Because he was begot without his leave ?
 Heav'n's Right in us is more ; first, form'd to serve ;
 The Good we merit not, the Ill deserve.

Raphael. Death is deferr'd, and Penitence has room
 To mitigate, if not reverse the Doom :
 But, for your Crime, th'Eternal does ordain
 In *Eden* you no longer shall remain.
 Hence to the lower World you are exil'd :
 This Place, with Crimes, shall be no more defil'd.

Eve. Must we this blissful Paradise forego ?

Raphael. Your Lot must be where Thorns and Thistles grow
 Unbid, as Balm and Spices did at first ;
 For Man, the Earth, of which he was, is curst :

To *Adam.* By thy own Toil procur'd, thou Food shalt eat,
 And know not Plenty, but from painful Sweat.
 She, by a Curse, of future Wives abbor'd,
 Shall pay Obedience to her lawful Lord :

And H E shall Rule, and she in Thraldom live;
Desiring more of Love than Man can give.

Adam. Heav'n is all Mercy; Labour I would chuse,
And could sustain this Paradise to lose
The Bliss; but not the Place; here could I say,
Heav'n's winged Messenger did pass the Day;
Under this Pine the glorious Angel staid:
Then show my wond'ring Progeny the Shade.
In Woods and Lawns where-e'er thou didst appear,
Each Place some Monument of thee should bear.
I, with green Turfs, would grateful Alters raise,
And Heav'n, with Gums and offer'd Incense praise.

Raphael. Where-e'er thou art, He is; th'Eternal Mind
Acts through all Places, is to none confin'd;
Fills Ocean, Earth, and Air, and all above,
And through the Universal Mass does move,
Thou canst be no where distant: Yet this place
Had been thy Kingly Seat; and here thy Race,
From all the Ends of Peopled Earth had come
To rev'rence Thee, and see their Native Home.
Immortal then; now Sickness, Care, and Age,
And War, and Luxury's more direful Rage,
Thy Crimes have brought, to shorten Mortal Breath,
With all the num'rous Family of Death.

Eve. My Spirits faint, while I these Ills fore-know,
And find my self the sad Occasion too.
But what is Death?

Raphael. In Vision thou shalt see his griev'd Face,
The King of Terrors raging in thy Race:
That whilst in future Fate thou shar'st thy Part,
A kind Remorse, for Sin, may seize thy Heart.

*The Scene shifts and discovers Death of several sorts: A Battel
at Land, and a Naval Fight.*

Adam. O wretched Off-spring! O unhappy State
Of all Mankind, by me betray'd by Fate!
Born, through my Crime, to be Offenders first;
And, for those Sins they could not shun, accurst.

Eve. Why is Life forc'd! No Man, who, might he chuse,
Would not accept what he with Pain must lose?
Unknowing, he receives it, and, when known,
He thinks it his, and values it, 'tis gone.

Raphael. Behold of ev'ry Age; ripe Manhood see,
Decrepit Years and helpless Infancy:
Those who by lingring Sickness lose their Breath,
And those who by Despair stubborn their Death:

See,

FALL of MAN.

35

See you, mad Fools, who for some trivial Right,
For Love, or for mistaken Honour, fight :
See those, more mad, who throw their Lives away
In needless Wars ; the Stakes which Monarchs lay,
When for each others Provinces they play.
Then, as if Earth too narrow were for Fate,
On open Seas, their Quarrels they debate ;
In hollow Wood, they floating Armies bear ;
And force imprison'd Winds to bring 'em near.

Eve. Who would the Miseries of Man foreknow ?
Not knowing, we but share our Part of Woe :
Now, we the Fate of future Ages bear ;
And e'er their Birth, behold our Dead appear.

Adam. The Deaths thou show'st are forc'd, and full of Strife ;
Cast headlong from the Precipice of Life.
Is there no smooth descent, no painless way
Of kindly mixing with our Native Clay ?

Raphael. There is ; but rarely shall that Path be trod,
Which, without Horror, leads to Death's abode.
Some few, by temp'rance taught, approaching slow,
To distant Fate, by easie Journeys, go :
Gently they lay 'em down, as Ev'ning Sheep,
On their own woolly Fleeces softly sleep.

Adam. So noiseless would I live, such Death to find,
Like timely Fruit, not shaken by the Wind,
But ripely dropping from the sapless Bough,
And dying, nothing to my self would owe.

Eve. Thus daily changing, with a duller taste
Of lessening Joys, I, by degrees, would waste :
Still quitting Ground, by unperceiv'd decay,
And steal my self from Life, and melt away.

Raphael. Death you have seen :
How happy they in deathless Pleasures live,
Far more than I can show, or you can see,
Shall crown the blest with Immortality.

*Here a Heaven descends, full of Angels and blessed Spirits, with
soft Musick ; a Song and Chorus.*

Adam. O Goodness infinite ! whose Heav'nly Will
Can so much Good produce, from so much Ill !
Happy their state !
Pure, and unchang'd, and needing no defence
From Sins, as did my frailer Innocence.
Their Joy sincere, and with no sorrow mixt,
Eternity stands permanent, and fixt,

And

And Wheels no longer on the Poles of Time ;
Secure from Fate, and more secure from Crime.

Eve. Ravish'd with Joy, I can but half repent
The Sin, which Heav'n makes happy in th' Event.

Raphael. Thus arm'd, meet firmly your approaching Ill :
For, see the Guards from yon' far Eastern Hill
Already move, nor longer stay afford ;
High in the Air they wave their flaming Sword,
Your Signal to depart : Now down amain
They drive, and glide like Meteors through the Plain.

Adam. Then farewell all ; I will indulgent be
To mine own ease, and not look back to see.
When what we love we ne'er must meet again ;
To lose the Thought, is to remove the Pain.

Eve. Farewel, you happy Shades !
Where Angels first should practise Hymns, and string
Their tuneful Harps, when they to Heav'n wou'd sing.
Farewel, you Flow'rs, whose Buds with early Care
I watch'd, and to the cheerful Sun did rear :
Who now shall bind your Stems, or when you fall
With Fountain Streams your fainting Souls recall ?
A long Farewel to thee, my Nuptial Bow'r.
Adorn'd with every fair and fragrant Flow'r.
And last, farewell, farewell my place of Birth ;
I go to wander in the low'r Earth,
As distant as I can ; for dispossess'd,
Farthest from what I once enjoy'd, is best.

Raphael. The rising Winds urge the tempestuous Air ;
And on their Wings deformed Winter bear :
The Beasts already feel the Change ; and hence
They fly, to deeper Coverts for defence ;
The feebler Herd before the stronger run ;
For now the War of Nature is begun :
But, part you hence in Peace, and having mourn'd your Sin,
For outward Eden lost, find Paradise within.

[*Exeunt.*]